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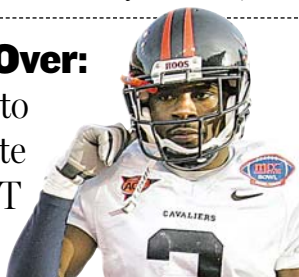
Yushchenko supporters rally in Kiev Monday.

Fight Goes On: Ukraine's PM says he'll challenge election results as Yushchenko leads | **5**

'Meltdown': Airlines work to recover from holiday chaos | **3**

Bowled Over:

U.Va. falls to Fresno State in 37-34 OT loss | **11**



ENTERTAINMENT

Great Scot! *Craig Ferguson* gets his brogue in gear for his new late-night gig. Plus, Eve's soft side; 'Phantom' on film; life after 'Six Feet Under.'



>> **17-21**

Weather > Sunny, Cold



35 | 28

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 25

Tsunami Toll Soars



FATHER'S GRIEF: An Indian man cries as he holds the hand of his 8-year-old son, who was killed when a tsunami slammed into Cuddalore on Sunday. At least 4,000 people died across India's southeast coast.

Asia confronts aftermath as number of dead tops 23,000

GALLE, SRI LANKA | Bodies washed up on tropical beaches and piled up in hospitals Monday, raising fears of disease across a 10-nation arc of destruction left by a monster earthquake and walls of water that killed more than 23,000 people. Thousands were missing and millions homeless.

Humanitarian agencies began what the United Nations said would become the biggest relief effort the world has ever seen.

The disaster could be the costliest in history as well. Hundreds of thousands have lost everything, and millions

face a hazardous future because of polluted drinking water and a lack of sanitation and no health services.

The International Red Cross, which reported 23,700 deaths, said it was concerned that waterborne diseases like malaria and cholera could add to the toll.

Sunday's massive quake of 9.0 magnitude off the Indonesian island of Sumatra sent 500-mph waves surging across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal in the deadliest known tsunami since the one that devastated the Portuguese capital of Lisbon in 1755 and killed an estimated 60,000 people.

Officials in Thailand and Indonesia conceded that public warnings of gigantic waves could have saved lives. But governments insisted they couldn't have known the true danger because there is no international system in place to track tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, and they could not afford the sophisticated equipment to build one. CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA (AP)

DEVASTATION

Among the dead:

→ **12,000** in Sri Lanka; nearly 5,000 in Indonesia; about 4,000 in India; more than 900 in Thailand
→ **Eight** Americans; hundreds remain missing

♦ **Young victims:** United Nations says children could account for up to half of all deaths | **Page 5**

GIFTS | Better Than a Gold Watch A man in Surprise, Neb., was, well, surprised when he checked out a retirement gift he was given recently, KETV-TV reported. Larry Svoboda got an 1804 silver dollar — worth millions — from a man he traded coins



with, he said. Only 15 1804 silver dollars were minted. The man who gave the coin to Svoboda bought it for \$1 in China and didn't know its value. Svoboda said he'll sell it and split the profits 50-50 with the man. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners



SPORTS

On the Flip Side

Now "flipping out" is a sport of its own. Leon Mederos, 16, of Alexandria, Va., is part of a group outside the Rockville, Md., Metro station that played parkour, a French-born extreme sport taking hold in the U.S. The name means "obstacle course" in French and the goal is to run, jump or climb over everyday obstacles in the most fluid manner possible. (AP)

PETS

Gator to Go

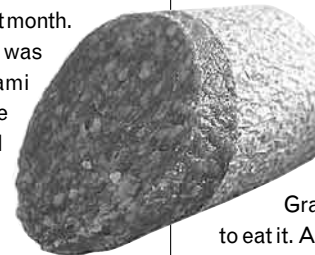
A man in Leith, Scotland, was arrested after police found an alligator in the trunk of his car, the BBC reported Wednesday. Anthony Quinn, 34, was selling the 4-foot reptile after buying it for \$485 on the Internet. He couldn't care for it, and tried to sell it through an ad, which was spotted by the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Posing as buyers, SSPCA officers met Quinn and found a "very dangerous," unrestrained female alligator. Quinn thought the animal would be small enough to be kept in a fish tank, he said. When it grew, he had to keep it in a bathtub. (EXPRESS)



INSPECTIONS

Track Meat

A Swiss student has been fined \$3,200 for trying to smuggle a salami into Western Australia last month. Dylan Pascal Graves was caught with the salami hidden in his luggage at Perth International Airport after a routine search by customs officials. Australia has strict quarantine laws and customs officials inspect



flights for agricultural pests and food. Sniffer dogs patrol airport terminals and luggage is passed through X-ray machines. Graves twice told customs officials he was not carrying any food but an X-ray revealed less than a pound of salami concealed in his luggage. When asked why he had not declared the salami, Graves said he had planned to eat it. An official said uncooked meats could spread foot-and-mouth disease. (AP)

POSTAGE

Instead of Cookies, Leave Santa Stamps

About 25,000 children who wrote to Sant Claus in Greenland this year got snubbed by the jolly old elf. In 2002, the government stopped giving the company Santa Claus of Greenland its annual \$306,000 subsidy to pay the postage for reply messages. The com-

pany, which is staffed by volunteers, said it could not afford to pay for the stamps itself this year. Greenland, like Finland, Sweden and Norway, claims to be the real home of Santa Claus and markets him as an ambassador for the island territory. But not all was lost. The group's Web site got hundreds of e-mails from children worldwide, and the volunteer elves made sure their missives got an answer. (AP)

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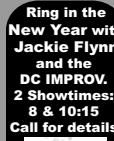
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2.2M

The average number of daily spam complaints to AOL by subscribers in November, down from about 11 million in November 2003, AOL said. With a similar dip in blocked spam messages, AOL said spammers are moving on.

Nation

In Brief



A strong storm dumped up to 18 inches of snow on parts of Massachusetts.

BOSTON Airports, Roads Snarled By Winter Storm on East Coast

A storm that dumped freezing rain and as much as 18 inches of snow on the East Coast snarled post-holiday travel Monday, stranding hundreds of drivers on slick roads and reducing Boston's Logan Airport to a single major runway. Tens of thousands of customers were left without power and at least three traffic deaths were blamed on the weather, one in Massachusetts and two in North Carolina. (AP)

COLUMBUS, OHIO Secretary of State Hopes to Avoid Deposition in Recount

The secretary of state, who declared President Bush the official winner in Ohio, is seeking a court order to keep himself from being interviewed as part of a court challenge of the Nov. 2 vote. Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell claims his deposition is not required, and accused 37 voters challenging the election of "frivolous conduct." (AP)

Awaiting Word from Asia

Many U.S. families of tsunami victims face anxious wait for news

LOS ANGELES | Hari Chandran spent much of the weekend on the phone frantically trying to reach loved ones on opposite coasts of Sri Lanka after monstrous tidal waves devastated his homeland.

He eventually learned that his in-laws to the south survived after climbing on the roof of their home, located only 150 feet from the beach in the capital of Colombo. He has had no luck finding his relatives to the north.

"We haven't been able to get through," said Chandran, who was planning a meeting to gather money and medical supplies from Sri Lankans in California.

Chandran is among thousands of South Asians across the United States who are making anxious phone calls home and collecting relief aid following the magnitude



SENDING PRAYERS: Mourners participate in a ceremony for the victims of the tidal waves that hit southern Asia at a Buddhist temple in New York City on Monday.

9.0 earthquake and ensuing tidal waves that have killed more than 22,000 people in 10 countries.

Relief donations have begun trickling in to hospitals, temples and community centers. Web sites once used to link immi-

grants to one another locally have been transformed into pipelines for aid efforts.

In New Jersey, doctors planned to solicit pharmaceutical representatives to donate drug samples to the relief effort. GILLIAN FLACCUS (AP)

Ariz. Doctors Barred from Selling Toxin

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. | Two doctors and their Arizona company were barred Monday from selling an unapproved botulism toxin believed to have paralyzed four people who used it instead of Botox, the popular anti-wrinkle treatment.

Doctors Chad Livdahl and Zarah Karim of Toxin Research

International Inc. do not have government approval for the "use, sale, marketing and promotion" of the toxin for treating wrinkles, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney Marcos Jimenez in Miami.

Food and Drug Administration investigators found records that the company made three deliveries to

a clinic where people were injected last month with an unapproved substance made from a botulism toxin. However, the doses that poisoned the four were not bought from Toxin Research, prosecutors said.

Still, Livdahl and Karim led seminars "instructing attendees how to inject this unapproved toxin into human beings, and conducted live demonstrations to this effect," the statement said. (AP)

Airlines Try To Get Back On Track

HEBRON, KY. | Luggage was stacked in rows longer than a football field Monday as airlines struggled to recover from the delays and mix-ups caused by regional carrier Comair's systemwide cancellations during the holiday weekend and the failure of US Airways' baggage system.

Comair said it would operate 60 percent of its flights Monday but would need at least two more days to restore a full schedule. Its planes were grounded over the weekend by a computer failure and fallout from a paralyzing snowstorm.

US Airways was recovering from what its chief executive called an "operational meltdown," with its planes flying out of Philadelphia International Airport at a near-normal pace Monday. Hundreds of US Airways flights were canceled from Friday to Sunday, the result of bad weather and large numbers of baggage handlers and flight attendants calling in sick. (AP)



A traveler searches in a sea of luggage at an airport in Hebron, Ky., on Monday.

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Nation



FIZZ GUARD: Andre Champagne Cellars is rolling out a resealable, screw-cap bottle that keeps the bubbly bubbling for days, Reuters reported. Andre hopes to break the idea of champagne being just for special occasions.

Intel Analysts' Help Wanted

U.S. agencies racing to entice new hires as staffing shortages loom

WASHINGTON | U.S. counterterrorism agencies are shopping for talent at job fairs, dangling generous scholarships and luring staff from each other in a race to overcome a shortage of analysts that may only get worse with America's new intelligence overhaul.

The problem existed even before Congress and the White House approved an intelligence restructuring this month that creates positions for people whose skills already are in high demand.

There is no consensus across the nation's 15 intelligence agencies on where staffing needs are the most acute. But few dispute that many more analysts are needed, particularly in the departments and agencies created since Sept. 11, 2001. The nearly two-year-old Homeland Security Department is a prime example.

"If you had a hundred, we'd take them," Pat Hughes, the Homeland Security Department's top intelligence official, said in an interview earlier this year. "We have to look, search, test, assess. You don't just get analysts off a tree. ... We need people, but we need good people."

To find them, Homeland

Security and other agencies are heading to job fairs, often looking near military bases where civil service is part of the culture and people may have security clearances. They're also trying to snag people from the private sector.

Congress also is offering sweeteners.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., has created military-style scholarships for the intelligence community. Under the program, undergraduate and graduate students can receive up to \$50,000 for two years of tuition if they agree to take needed jobs in an intelligence agency for up to three years. (AP)

Gay Minister to Challenge Defrocking

NEW YORK | A Methodist minister who was defrocked for declaring that she's a lesbian living with her partner is taking her case to a church appeals court.

The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, of Philadelphia, was ousted Dec. 2 for violating the United Methodist Church's law against "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" in the clergy.

She decided last week to appeal but delayed the announcement until

after Christmas weekend. Notice of appeal must be filed this week.

Stroud said she hesitated to appeal because she dislikes being in the spotlight, but "there are questions the larger church needs to discuss and wrestle with."

Stroud was tried by her own Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The case now goes to an appeals panel of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which covers 12 states and the District of Columbia. (AP)

HEARSAY | CLOSINGS

"He'd obviously be upset. He knew that literature can lift and elevate the spirit and enable humans to rise above any situation."

—LIBRARIAN MARY JEAN GAMBLE ON HOW AUTHOR JOHN STEINBECK MIGHT REACT TO THE NEWS THAT LIBRARIES IN HIS HOMETOWN OF SALINAS, CALIF., WILL BE CLOSING DUE TO BUDGETARY CONCERNS.

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NEW YORK CITY | HAVING A BALL



CRYSTAL CLEAR: Nick Bonavita assembles Waterford crystal triangles on Monday in New York on the ball that will be dropped during the final countdown to 2005 as part of the New Year's Eve party in Times Square.

Today in The Washington Post

Behind the Wheel: A rash of recent crashes involving SUVs and young people is leading officials to wonder if drivers of the large vehicles need extra experience. | [Page A1](#)

Rank and File: The Facebook, a popular online community for college students, maps out the cool kids and the purposeful freaks at the click of a mouse. | [Style](#)

Female Fighters: While gang violence is nothing new, the players have been changing — in the form of girl gangs, which are on the rise in D.C. and other cities. | [Metro](#)

ARCHES ENEMY: The Chinese-language Web site of fast food giant McDonald's Corp. was vandalized twice on Christmas by a hacker protesting its listing of Taiwan as a separate country, Reuters reported, citing the Beijing Youth Daily.



World

Across Asia, the Parents Grieve

U.N. says children could account for half of all tsunami deaths

CUDDALORE, INDIA | The buzz of grim conversation in the darkened morgue was broken by a man's shriek as the small body was lowered on a bed. "My son, my king!" wailed Venkatesh, hugging the limp shrouded bundle.

Thousands of miles away in Indonesia, farmer Yusya Yusman aimlessly searched the beaches for his two children lost in Sunday's tsunami. "My life is over," he said emotionlessly.

In country after country, children have emerged as the biggest victims of Sunday's quake-born tidal waves — thousands and thousands drowned, battered and washed away by huge walls of water.

"The power of this earthquake, and its huge geographical reach, are just staggering," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. The U.N. organization estimates at least one-third of the tens of thousands who died were children, and the proportion could be up to half.

Children make up at least half of the population in Asia. Many of them work alongside their parents in the fishing or related industries in coastal areas, so they were in harm's way when the tidal waves came.

The scenes of unimagined grief were repeated across Asia. About half of the nearly 400 people who



IMMEASURABLE SORROW: Victims' relatives grieve at the site of a mass burial in Cuddalore, India, on Monday. More than 22,000 people were killed across a 10-nation arc of destruction after a monster earthquake triggered massive tidal waves.

perished in Cuddalore in India's Tamil Nadu state were children.

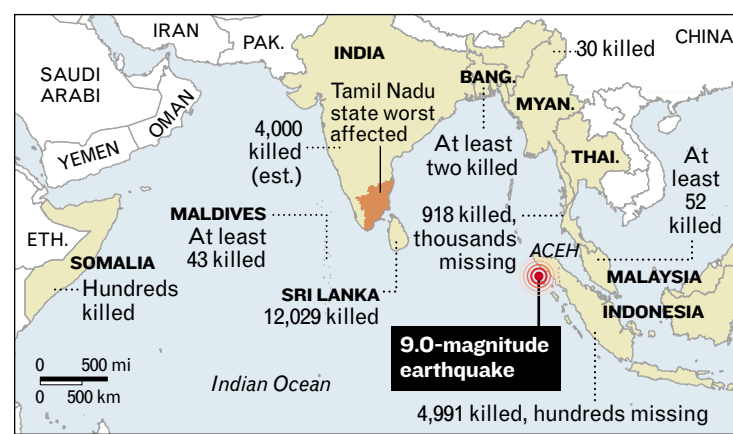
Under Hindu tradition, children are buried instead of being cremated. Most of the children, ages 5-12, were buried as they were found — in their Sunday clothes.

Venkatesh, who uses only one name, found his 11-year-old son Suman as his body was lowered onto a gurney. The 37-year-old man had been in Dubai, where he went three months ago as a construction worker. When his wife called from

Cuddalore to tell him their boy was missing, Venkatesh flew home and went straight to the morgue.

There, he found his wife and daughter minutes before Suman's body was brought in. "I never thought I would only see my son's body," cried Venkatesh.

Within moments, an identification tag was tied to the boy's hand and his body taken inside. As one of his relatives pulled him away, Venkatesh kept asking: "How can I go, leaving behind my son?" (AP)



Ukrainian Refuses to Concede Defeat

PM says he will 'never recognize' vote results

KIEV, UKRAINE | Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko celebrated his unassailable lead in Ukraine's presidential election rerun, but his opponent refused to concede defeat Monday, saying he would challenge the results in the Supreme Court.

"I will never recognize such a defeat, because the constitution and human rights were violated in our country," Prime Minister Viktor



Yanukovich answers a question during a news conference in Kiev on Monday.

Yanukovich told reporters.

Official results from Sunday's vote, with ballots counted from

99.89 percent of precincts, gave Yushchenko 52.01 percent compared to Yanukovich's 44.18 percent. Yushchenko's 2.3 million vote lead was insurmountable: fewer than 100,000 votes remained to be counted. Once the election commission releases its final preliminary results, both candidates have seven days to appeal.

The vote was a rerun of the Nov. 21 runoff, which the Supreme Court annulled after allegations of widespread fraud. Yanukovich had been named the winner of that vote. (AP)

Russia, China Will Hold Joint Military Exercises in '05

MOSCOW | Once-bitter rivals Russia and China will hold a massive joint military exercise on Chinese territory next year involving submarines and possibly strategic bombers, Russia's defense minister said.

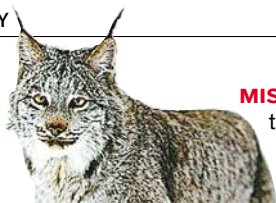
"For the first time in history, we have agreed to hold quite a large military exercise together with China on Chinese territory," Sergei Ivanov said Monday at a Cabinet session chaired by President Vladimir

Putin, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

The exercises are expected to bolster burgeoning military ties between the two countries, and many observers saw the announcement as Russia's response to a spat with the United States over the disputed election in Ukraine. Putin and other Russian officials allege that the United States improperly influenced the vote through funding democracy-building organizations.

Both China and Russia have frequently spoken about their adherence to a "multi-polar world," a term that refers to their opposition to a perceived U.S. domination. (AP)

World



MISSING LYNX: The lynx wildcat has been spotted in Belgian forests for the first time in three centuries, a government agency has confirmed. The cats used to roam the woods that extended into Germany and France, and their return is something of a mystery.

Top Shiite Survives Attack

Meanwhile, Sunni party pulls out of Iraqi vote

BAGHDAD | A suicide car bomber killed 15 people Monday in trying to assassinate the head of Iraq's strongest Shiite party before parliamentary elections next month, while the biggest Sunni Muslim political group dealt a blow to ballot plans by withdrawing from the campaign because of a lack of security.

The bomber tried to drive his car through the gate at the home of Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, but detonated his explosives when guards blocked

the way. Al-Hakim, who was inside, was not hurt.

Al-Hakim heads the 228-candidate list of the United Iraqi Alliance, which includes parties and individuals from all Iraqi ethnic and religious groups but is dominated by Shiites, who account for about 60 percent of the country's population. Backed by Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the coalition is widely expected to

dominate the postelection constitutional assembly and play a key role in formulating Iraq's new national charter.

Just hours after the blast, the leader of a moderate Sunni bloc, the Iraqi Islamic Party, announced that the group had reversed its earlier decision to take part in the Jan. 30 elections.

"The security situation keeps going from bad to worse and has to be dealt with," Mohsen Abdel-Hamid said. **SLOBODAN LEKIC (AP)**



Sectarian divisions: The question of Sunni Muslim participation has emerged as the central concern a month before the election | **Today's Post:** Section A

GREAT BRITAIN | WHIFF OF NOSTALGIA



DARREN STAPLES/REUTERS

IN THE HUNT: Hunters and hounds gather for the annual Boxing Day meet in Badminton, southern England, on Monday. Scarlet-clad fox hunters turned out in strong numbers across Britain Monday, traditionally one of the most important dates on the hunting calendar, vowing it would not be their last outing despite a planned ban on hunting with dogs in England and Wales.

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In Brief

IRAQ

Al-Zarqawi's Status Elevated On Purported Bin Laden Tape

In an audiotape broadcast Monday by Al-Jazeera, a man purported to be Osama bin Laden endorsed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq and called for a boycott of next month's elections there. The voice described al-Zarqawi as the "emir" of al Qaeda in Iraq and called upon Muslims there "to listen to him." It was not immediately possible to verify the voice's authenticity. Monday's was the second tape allegedly by bin Laden to surface this month. (AP)

JAPAN

Task Force to Study Whether Female Can Assume Throne

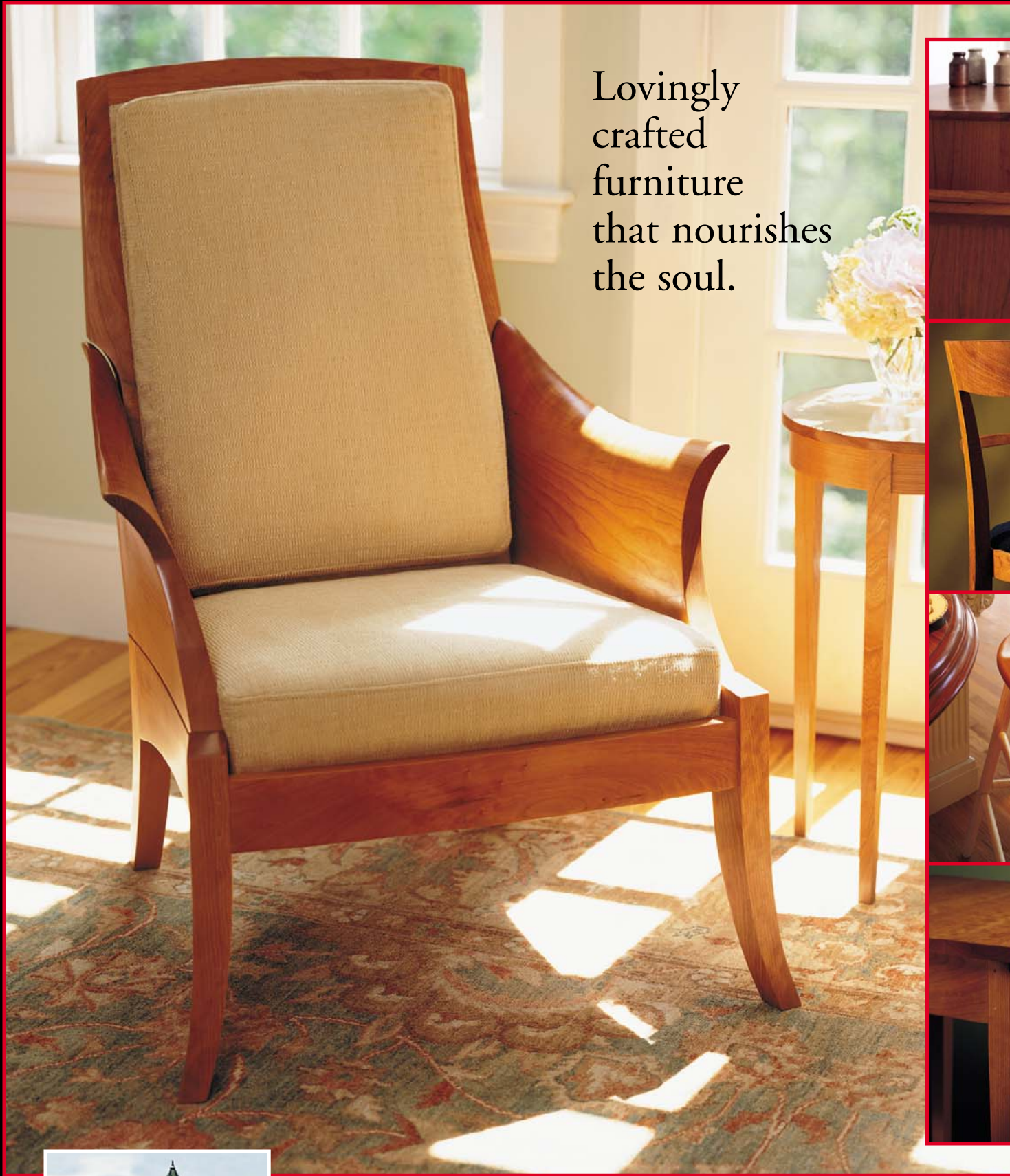
Japan will set up a task force to consider allowing a reigning empress, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said on Monday. It will be

the government's first review of a post-World War II law that limits imperial succession to men. While Japanese law bans women from ascending to the Chrysanthemum Throne, no boy has been born to the royal family since the 1960s and government officials have been fretting about how to solve the royals' most serious succession crisis in centuries. The 10-member task force will deliver its recommendation by late 2005, Hosoda said. (AP)

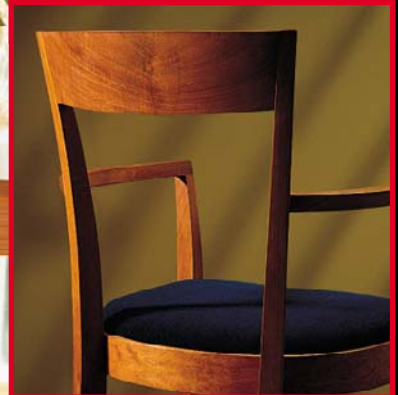
NEPAL

100,000 March in Katmandu, Demanding End to Fighting

More than 100,000 people marched through Nepal's capital on Monday, demanding that the government and Maoist rebels halt fighting that has claimed nearly 11,000 lives in the Himalayan kingdom. The rebels have been fighting since 1996 to replace Nepal's monarchy with a communist state. The violence has escalated since the guerrillas withdrew from a cease-fire last year. (AP)



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Compaq DeskPro P3 1.0Ghz 256mb 20.0GB CD 56K Nic Win2K	\$199
HP Vectra VL420 P4 1.7Ghz 512mb 20.0GB CD 56K Nic Win2K	\$299
P4 Multimedia Home Systems From SONY VAIO & VPR MATRIX Towers	\$399
512mb 80.0GB DVD/CD XP Home	\$529
SERVER ProLiant, Poweredge, MPRO Intellistation, Netserver & More From	\$199
DELL SERVER 6300 P3 Xeon 550Mhz 512mb 5x9.1 Hot Swap CD Nic	\$399

LAPTOPS

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IBM ThinkPad 600x P3 500Mhz 128mb 6.0GB CD 56K Modem TFT	\$349
HP OMNIBOOK 6000 P3 700Mhz 192mb 10.0GB DVD 56K Nic TFT	\$449
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8 | EXPRESS | 12.28.2004 | TUESDAY

Money

Stores Still Hope to Meet Modest Goals

Retailers have strong week after slow start to shopping season

The holiday shopping season ended better than it started, and most retailers are on track to meet humble sales goals. Many still hope for an extra boost the week after Christmas as consumers cash in gift cards.

Wal-Mart, which got off to a slow start, said Monday that December sales would come at the midpoint of its modest December forecast thanks to brisker-than-expected business the Sunday after Christmas.

And J.C. Penney Co. Inc. expects same-store sales, a measurement

of sales at stores opened at least a year, to rise by single digits for the combined November and December period. Same-store sales are considered the best indicator of a retailer's health.

"It came down to the wire, and last week was particularly strong," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers. "Even if it comes in where we expect, it is still a modest performance," he added. "But it is still better than what we had feared two or three weeks ago."

The full picture for the holiday shopping season won't be known until Jan. 6, when the nation's retailers are slated to report their December sales figures. (AP)

In Brief

ENERGY

Crude Down 6% as Markets Brush Off Tsunami Fears

Crude futures fell by nearly \$3 a barrel on Monday as traders anticipated warmer weather in the Northeast later in the week and responded to weekend snowstorms in the Midwest that kept motorists off the road. Traders brushed off any impact from the massive earthquake off the coast of Indonesia, where the government oil company and Exxon Mobil Corp. said operations and exports were continuing as normal after brief power outages.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery plunged \$2.86, or 6 percent, to \$41.32 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange in afternoon trading. (AP)

RETAILERS

Electronics Sales Outstrip Book Sales at Amazon.com

Amazon.com Inc. on Monday said demand for consumer electronics outstripped its book business for the first time during the holidays, which turned out to be the busiest season in the company's history. The online retailer also said it set a single-day sales record during the period with more than 2.8 million units, or 32 items per second, ordered across the globe. Amazon.com's stock price surged \$3.73 to \$42.66. (AP)

U.Va. to Offer Executive MBA Program

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. | The University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business plans to join the ranks of schools that offer master's programs for executives.

Darden's plans reflect a national trend in which business schools are responding to the fact that fewer people want to give up a fairly high-paying job for two years to pursue

their MBA, said the school's dean, Robert S. Harris.

Darden hopes to launch the program in 2006 with an inaugural class of 40 to 45 students. Its executive MBA program will have the same core curriculum, but will be pitched at a slightly more advanced level for people who have worked for about 10 to 12 years. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TwrAuto	2.32	+26	+12.6
Turksh	17.95	+2.00	+12.5
WaterPk	17.80	+1.80	+11.3
CmpTsk	4.89	+38	+8.4
Lubys	7.85	+60	+8.3

Losers

AlliedCap	25.61	-2.63	-9.3
Tsakos	34.59	-3.07	-8.2
Frontline s	44.40	-3.11	-6.5
GnMarit	39.15	-2.66	-6.4
NS Grp	27.58	-1.86	-6.3

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TaylrDv	6.75	+4.27	+172.2
MetaGp	9.82	+3.34	+51.5
EuroTech s	4.37	+1.37	+45.7
AnlySur	2.55	+67	+35.6
WorldGate	5.50	+1.07	+24.2

Losers

CellegPh	2.70	-2.19	-44.8
Shrplm	18.96	-4.18	-18.1
CalMaine s	12.31	-1.63	-11.7
Macronix	2.10	-.24	-10.3
Intrusn hrs	2.37	-.27	-10.2

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.25	5.25
Fed Funds close	2.3125	2.25
3-month	2.19	2.16
2-year	3.05	3.03
10-year	4.30	4.19
30-year	4.92	4.81

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5172	.5208	.5649
Canadian Dollar	1.2193	1.2334	1.3080
European Euro	.7342	.7411	.8046
Japanese Yen	103.10	103.70	107.17
Mexican Peso	11.1545	11.1480	11.2240
Taiwanese Dollar	32.17	32.22	34.05

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-50.99	-6.40	-5.21
-0.47	-0.30	-0.43
10776.13	2154.22	1204.92

Biotech Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Amgen	63.59	-.56	+2.9
ApplBio	20.51	-.47	-1.0
BiogenIdc	65.55	-.76	+78.6
Celgene s	26.54	...	+18.3
Chiron	32.06	-.10	-43.7
Genentch s	53.69	-.16	+14.8
Genzyme	56.26	+.20	+14.1
GileadSci s	34.26	-.05	+17.6
Imclone	44.00	-.35	+10.9
LabCp	49.62	-.07	+34.3
MedImun	27.44	-.22	+8.1
MillPhar	11.94	+.09	-36.0
Monsnto	55.19	+.45	+91.8
OSI Phrm	72.18	-1.25	+123.8
QstDiag	94.88	-.42	+29.8

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Local

8-8-8

The winning combination selected by thousands of players in the Virginia Lottery's Pick 3 game on Monday. Players wagered \$357,870 and won a total of \$3,028,925, the lottery said. Each ticket with the winning combo was worth \$500.

Barry Slotted to Join Metro Board

Recommendation is part of Cropp's plan to reshuffle D.C. Council

WASHINGTON | D.C. Councilman-elect and former mayor Marion Barry could soon be one of the people steering Metro.

Council Chair Linda Cropp will recommend that the Ward 8 Democrat replace Councilman David Catania, I-At Large, as an alternate on the regional board that oversees the cash-strapped transit agency.

Word of Cropp's recommendations came from Council member Adrian Fenty, D-Ward 4.

Councilman Jim Graham, D-Ward 1, would remain on the board.

Cropp's recommendations are part of her reshuffling of committee assignments among 13 council members. Catania would chair a new health committee. None of the three newly elected council members would be given chairmanships.

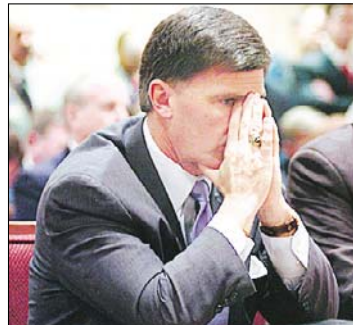
The changes are expected to win council approval after members are sworn in Sunday. (AP)

Little Accord on Malpractice Crisis

Lawmakers question Md. governor calling special session on issue

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | Significant disagreements over medical malpractice insurance reform continued to divide Gov. Robert Ehrlich and key legislators Monday as they prepared for a special session of the General Assembly called by the governor to deal with what he said is a crisis that threatens health care for all Marylanders.

Ehrlich was subjected to skeptical questioning from some lawmakers when he appeared at Senate and House committee hearings seeking support for his bill to rein in big



Gov. Robert Ehrlich is grilled by the Md. Senate during Monday's hearing.

increases in malpractice insurance premiums.

Democratic leaders plan to introduce their own bills when the House of Delegates and Senate meet Tuesday. While there are areas of

agreement in all three plans, there are differences that House Speaker Michael Busch and Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller said will be difficult to resolve.

Ehrlich said his bill will help reduce the cost of malpractice lawsuits while protecting the rights of patients victimized by bad doctors.

Ehrlich said on Dec. 17 when he issued a proclamation for the special session that he, Busch and Miller were in substantial agreement on what should be in the bill. But the three leaders have given differing views on what they had agreed to, and Miller and Busch question the need for calling lawmakers back to Annapolis just two weeks before their regular session opens. TOM STUCKEY (AP)

Hundreds Mourn Victims of D.C. Fire

WASHINGTON | Hundreds of mourners cried in a Northeast Washington church Monday, recalling a mother who worked two jobs, her young daughter and niece and her grandfather. All perished last week in the city's deadliest fire in

more than a decade.

"Their deaths have left a great hole in our lives," Mayor Anthony A. Williams wrote in a letter read to mourners who crowded into Randall Memorial Baptist Church.

The Dec. 20 fire was blamed on

a space heater. David Ferguson, 69, died after jumping from a second-story window. His granddaughter, Joy Hellams, 30, ran inside and helped save an 11-year-old boy, then went back inside for her 11-year-old daughter, Aisha McAllister, and her niece, Daisha Reid, 5. They never made it out. (AP)

Judge Releases Arson Suspect

GREENBELT, MD. | A federal judge on Monday released a Waldorf man, accused of helping set fire to a Charles County housing development, into his parents' custody.

Michael Everhart, 20, is the second suspect placed on home detention as investigators probe what has been described as the largest residential arson in state history.

Everhart walked out of U.S. District Court with family members after Magistrate Judge Jillyn Schulze released him until his trial.

Six men are charged with arsons that caused \$10 million in damage at the Hunters Brooke development in Indian Head. Four have either been ordered held without bail or did not challenge their detentions. A judge ordered a fifth suspect, Roy



Michael Everhart leaves the Federal Courthouse after Monday's ruling.

McCann, released on home detention last week.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Donna Sanger did not oppose Everhart's release during a short hearing, telling Schulze "further information" on his role in the fires prompted prosecutors to determine that he could be released. STEPHEN MANNING (AP)

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If you are a woman between the ages of 45 and 75 and have high blood pressure you may be eligible to take part in this nationwide study.

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The Lotteries

Monday, Dec. 27

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	5-8-6
Evening Lucky Numbers	4-8-7
Mid-day DC 4	1-8-1-0
Evening DC 4	7-0-1-3
Quick Cash	16-5-34-14-32-23
Hot Five	23-5-8-2-3

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	3-1-4
Evening Pick 3	2-6-5
Mid-day Pick 4	2-0-3-9
Evening Pick 4	5-1-2-1
Match 5	12-14-20-27-38 Bonus: 29

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	8-8-8
Mid-day Pick 4	4-2-5-1
Mid-day Cash 5	4-8-9-26-27

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

ON BOARD: Mike Tice will coach the Vikings again in 2005. The team picked up Tice's \$1 million option to coach next season, despite a second straight fade by the club. Minnesota (8-7) can make the playoffs with a win over the Redskins on Sunday.



Sports

Box Score

Bulldogs 37, Cavaliers 34

FRESNO STATE	7	3	7	14	6
VIRGINIA	14	7	3	7	3

FIRST QUARTER

UVA: Pearman 13 run (Hughes kick), 12:02
FSU: Jennings 13 pass from Pinegar (Visintainer kick), 6:37
UVA: McGrew 7 pass from Hagans (Hughes kick), 4:39

SECOND QUARTER

UVA: Hagans 8 run (Hughes kick), 12:50
FSU: FG Visintainer 49, :00

THIRD QUARTER

FSU: Jamison 22 pass from Pinegar (Visintainer kick), 8:42
UVA: FG Hughes 33, 5:52

FOURTH QUARTER

FSU: Wood 22 pass from Pinegar (Visintainer kick), 8:42
UVA: Lundy 20 run (Hughes kick), 6:20
FSU: Fairman 3 pass from Pinegar (Visintainer kick), 0:11

OVERTIME

UVA: FG Hughes 26
FSU: Spach 25 pass from Pinegar

	Cavaliers	Bulldogs
First Downs	21	25
Rushes-Yards	36-260	38-222
Passing	162	235
Comp-Att-Int	18-31-0	23-38-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-8	2-20
Punts	4-32	5-35.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-82	7-64
Time Of Possession	27:12	47:48

RUSHING

VIRGINIA: Hagans 7-85, Lundy 14-63, Pearman 9-52, Snelling 5-46, Davis 1-14
FRESNO STATE: Mathis 15-126, Sumlin 21-94,

PASSING

VIRGINIA: Hagans 18-30-162, Lundy 0-1-0
FRESNO STATE: Pinegar 23-36-235

RECEIVING

VIRGINIA: Miller 5-66, McGrew 4-30, Pearman 3-21, Mines 2-16
FRESNO STATE: Fernandez 5-72, Jamison 4-46, Jennings 4-43, Spach 2-29



END OF THE LINE: Fresno State tight end Stephen Spach rolls into the end zone to defeat Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl.

Cavaliers Stumble in Bowl

Fresno State stuns Virginia 37-34 in overtime

COLLEGE BOWLS | Paul Pinegar shrugged off midseason criticism and kept throwing for touchdowns.

Pinegar had five TD passes, including the game-winning 25-yarder to Stephen Spach in overtime, as Fresno State beat No. 18 Virginia 37-34 in the MPC Computers Bowl on Monday.

Fresno State, the third-place team in the Western Athletic Conference, added the Cavaliers (8-4) of the Atlantic Coast Conference to a list of victims that has included Colorado, Oregon State, Wisconsin, Washington and Kansas State in recent years.

Virginia got the first possession of overtime, taking a 34-31

lead on a 26-yard field goal by Connor Hughes.

It didn't take Pinegar long to end it, though. He froze the defense with a play-action call and zipped a pass inside the 5 to Spach, who fought off a pair of would-be tacklers and dropped into the end zone.

"When you catch the ball in that situation, you're just looking for the end zone," Spach said. "You just keep on running." **TIM KORTE (AP)**

Portis Is Done for The Year

Arrington will join running back on the bench in season finale

REDSKINS | The Washington Redskins will be without running back Clinton Portis, linebacker LaVar Arrington and cornerback Ade Jimoh for the season finale against the Minnesota Vikings.

Also, cornerback Fred Smoot is unlikely to play after spending Sunday night in a Dallas hospital with a mild kidney bruise.

Portis tore the right pectoral muscle in his upper chest in Sunday's 14-10 loss to the Dallas Cowboys. Trainer Bubba Tyer said Portis won't need surgery, but that the injury would probably have sidelined the running back for several weeks if the season were not about to end.

The injury ends Portis' hopes of becoming the first back in NFL history to run for 1,500 yards in each of his first three seasons. With 1,315 yards, Portis also falls short of Stephen Davis' franchise record of 1,432.

Arrington played only a few plays Sunday in his second game back from knee surgery. Tyer said Arrington was limited after developing some tendinitis in the knee during his 11 games away. **(AP)**

BOWL GAMES | STOOPING TO THIS



SAY ORANGE: Obie, the Orange Bowl mascot, poses with Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops after his team arrived in Miami on Monday to prep for the bowl.

Logical or Not, Redskins Have Hope

REDSKINS | Patrick Ramsey was midway through another optimistic spin Monday, discussing the Washington Redskins' lack of execution on just a few vital plays, when he offered this insight: "I know it doesn't seem logical, but I feel good about our future."

A couple of hours later, Joe Gibbs said the same thing, except that he tried to make it sound logical.

"I do think we are close. ... It's been close in fourth quarter," the coach said. "We just haven't won enough of those games."

The Redskins have been say-

ing all season that they are close to becoming a good, contending team next season, but the stark facts indicate they are not close at all. Logic would indicate that a 5-10 team that struggles to score can't expect to suddenly thrive without significant changes.

The Redskins haven't been able to win two straight. They haven't beaten a team with a winning record. They've yet to win a game in which they've trailed. In Sunday's 13-10 loss at Dallas, the offense failed to score more than one touchdown for the ninth time

this season.

That's not close to being a good team at all. In fact, the Redskins are on the verge of being as bad as last year's debacle of a team that went 5-11 and prompted coach Steve Spurrier to quit the NFL. The 5-10 record assures Gibbs of the worst season in his 13-year career, and this is the first Gibbs team to amass 1,000 yards in penalties. **JOSEPH WHITE (AP)**

Tony Kornheiser: Finally, all of the Redskins playoff talk can end with Sunday's loss | **Today's Post, Sports**

Sports



A NEW LOW: The Cleveland Browns are having a historic season. But it's one they'd just as soon forget. If Cleveland falls to the Houston Texans on Sunday, its losing streak will extend to 10—the longest in franchise history. For the record, the Browns beat the Redskins 17-13 on Oct 3.

White's Lung Ailment Cited

Respiratory disease blamed for death of NFL defensive legend

AUTOPSY | NFL great Reggie White may have died because of a respiratory disease combined with other health problems, a preliminary autopsy report said Monday.

White most likely had a condition that affected the amount of air his lungs could hold, resulting in "fatal cardiac arrhythmia," said Dr. Mike Sullivan, the medical examiner for Mecklenburg County and a forensic pathologist.

The report issued by Sullivan's

office also said sleep apnea may have been a factor.

The report is a preliminary one; determining a final cause of death could take up to three months, Sullivan's office said.

White died on Sunday at Presbyterian Hospital in Huntersville after being taken there from his home in nearby Cornelius, N.C.

White had sarcoidosis for several years, family spokesman Keith Johnson said Sunday.

On its Web site, the American



White

Lung Association describes sarcoidosis as a disease characterized by the presence of small areas of inflamed cells that can attack any organ of the body but is most frequently found in the lungs.

A public viewing will be held Wednesday at A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service in Charlotte. A private service also will be held.

A two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and ordained minister who was known as the "Minister of Defense," White played 15 seasons with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina. He retired after the 2000 season as the NFL's career sacks leader with 198. (AP)

Sox Pay Price for Championship Win

BASEBALL | The Boston Red Sox got an extra bill after winning the World Series.

Boston and Anaheim must pay baseball's luxury tax along with the New York Yankees, according to final figures compiled by the commissioner's office.

The Yankees are required to pay \$25,026,352, according to a Dec. 21 memorandum that was sent to all major league teams. Boston owes \$3,155,234 for exceeding the payroll threshold of \$120.5 million and Anaheim got a bill for \$927,059.

In 2003, the first year of the

new luxury tax, the Yankees were the only team to pay, owing \$11,798,357, according to the team's latest revised bill.

Because they exceeded the threshold a second time, the Yankees were taxed at a rate of 30 percent for the amount they were over. Boston and Anaheim were taxed at a 22.5 percent rate. (AP)



CYCLE CONTINUES: Lance Armstrong won the AP's top athlete award for the third straight year on Monday. Only Michael Jordan has accomplished the same feat.

AP Honors Armstrong As 2004's Top Athlete

Six-time Tour champ wins award for the third consecutive year

AWARDS | Even by his lofty standards, Lance Armstrong's return to the mountaintop in 2004 was pretty special.

The question now facing Armstrong and his legion of fans is whether he'll return to challenge again in 2005.

Already recognized as a truly inspiring athlete, Armstrong took his cycling legacy a step further when he won a record-breaking sixth consecutive Tour de France in July.

And for his accomplishment, he was honored Monday as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year for the third straight year.

Armstrong joined Michael Jordan (1991-93) as the only athletes selected by American sports writers and broadcasters three straight times since the honor was first awarded in 1931.

Armstrong received 51 first-place votes and 312 total points. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning was second with 17 first-place votes and 156 points.

Nevertheless, Armstrong has yet to commit to going for a seventh Tour title next year. JIM VERTUNO (AP)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
New York	14	13	.519	—	6-4	8-8
Boston	12	14	.462	1.5	5-5	7-8
Philadelphia	11	14	.440	2	5-5	10-6
New Jersey	9	16	.360	4	6-4	7-7
Toronto	10	19	.345	5	3-7	4-10

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Cleveland	16	11	.593	—	5-5	9-8
Detroit	13	12	.520	2	6-4	7-7
Indiana	12	13	.480	3	2-8	10-7
Chicago	9	16	.360	6	7-3	4-7
Milwaukee	7	16	.304	7	2-8	6-8

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Miami	22	7	.759	—	10-0	16-2
Orlando	15	10	.600	5	5-5	6-5
Washington	14	11	.560	6	4-6	10-6
Charlotte	7	16	.304	12	4-6	4-10
Atlanta	5	20	.200	15	3-7	2-11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Seattle	19	5	.792	—	7-3	12-3
Minnesota	16	10	.615	4	5-5	12-4
Portland	13	12	.520	6.5	5-5	4-7
Denver	13	14	.481	7.5	3-7	4-9
Utah	11	16	.407	9.5	3-7	7-7

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Phoenix	24	3	.889	—	10-0	13-2
Sacramento	17	9	.654	6.5	6-4	8-8
L.A. Lakers	14	12	.538	9.5	5-5	9-8
L.A. Clippers	12	13	.480	11	3-7	5-10
Golden State	9	18	.333	15	4-6	4-15

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
San Antonio	22	6	.786	—	7-3	10-4
Dallas	18	10	.643	4	6-4	11-7
Houston	13	14	.481	8.5	7-3	9-7
Memphis	12	17	.414	10.5	5-5	7-11
New Orleans	2	24	.077	19	1-9	2-15

Standings through Dec. 26 games



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199

The number of consecutive weeks the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team had been in the AP's top 25 until Monday. After splitting two road games last week, the Huskies moved to No. 11 in the new poll.

Sports

In Brief

NBA

New Orleans, Houston Swap Journeyman Guards

The New Orleans Hornets, off to a 2-24 start, traded shooting guard David Wesley to the Houston Rockets for Jim Jackson and Bostjan Nachbar on Monday. Wesley played for the Hornets since the 1997-98 season, compiling averages of 14.7 points and 4.6 assists. He is the

franchise's career leader in games started and ranks in the top three in 12 other categories. Jackson, a 13-year veteran who plays both shooting guard and small forward, holds career averages of 15.2 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.4 assists. (AP)

BASEBALL

Alou Joins Dad With Giants

The San Francisco Giants finalized a two-year contract with outfielder Moises Alou on Monday that reunites him with his father, manager Felipe Alou. The deal is worth

about \$13.25 million and includes a player option for the 2006 season.



Alou

An agreement was reached last week, but was pending until Alou passed a physical. An escalator could raise the value to about \$13.75 million. Alou gives the Giants another big bat to team with Barry Bonds in the middle of the lineup. Alou hit a career-high 39 homers for the Chicago Cubs last season and drove in 106 runs. (AP)

BASEBALL

Milton Heads to the Reds

Free agent Eric Milton and Cincinnati agreed to a three-year deal Monday as the Reds kept revamping their pitching staff. Milton, 29, led Philadelphia in wins, starts and strikeouts last season, going 14-6 with a 4.75 ERA in 34 starts. He struck out 171. The signing gives the Reds a proven left-hander in the rotation. Milton went 71-57 with a 4.76 ERA in 200 appearances with Minnesota and Philadelphia. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (6:30 P.M. ON ESPN)

Quarterback Josh Betts lead Miami (Ohio) against Iowa State in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (9:45 P.M. ON ESPN)

Without the fired Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame takes on Oregon State in the Insight Bowl in Phoenix.

COLLEGE HOOPS (9 P.M. ON ESPN2) No. 3

Oklahoma State hosts No. 12 Gonzaga.

NBA (9:30 P.M. ON WGN) The red-hot Chicago Bulls play the New Jersey Nets.

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NIAAA



Healthy Adult VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



HIV is a global epidemic. Currently, 42 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, a disease that has no cure. In 2003, 5 million people were newly infected with HIV, equaling about 14,000 infections each day. Approximately 11 of every 1000 adults aged 15 to 49 worldwide, are HIV infected.

The world is in desperate need of a vaccine for the prevention of HIV infection.

Will you help?

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Henry Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine are currently enrolling volunteers to participate in a study to evaluate the safety of a new investigational HIV vaccine.

If you are a healthy US citizen between the ages of 18-45, are not currently in the US military and are available for 13 months, you may be qualified to participate in a study evaluating this vaccine.

This experimental vaccine does not cause HIV infection.

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Ask for Keisha, MJ, or Kathleen

Volunteers Needed

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**ASTHMA
Volunteers Needed
for NIH Asthma
Research Study**

The **Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch** at the **National Institutes of Health** is looking for individuals with asthma between the ages of 18-65 to participate in a research study. A thorough medical evaluation and monetary compensation will be provided. If interested, please call **301-402-1553**.

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See **HOT NEW
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The Washington Post

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EARLY CAREGIVER STUDY:

Need Adult Participants If you assisted a parent with feeding or other needs when you were under 21, then call Dr. Kim Shifren at 410-704-6239 to see if you qualify for this study.
Has IRB approval from Towson University.
No Money Available for participation

**RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITIES**

If you currently have used prescription or non-prescription pain medication for non-medical use at least five times in the last year and are interested in participating in a 25 day inpatient drug research study and are:

- **A Healthy, Male or Female**
- **Between 18-50 Years Of Age**

**1-866-750-2165
For More Information**

And to schedule a confidential screening interview to see if you qualify. Studies will be conducted in the Clinical Pharmacology Unit of a federal medical research facility in Bethesda, Maryland.



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See **HOW TO GROW A GREEN THUMB**

Digging In. Thursday. Home.

The Washington Post

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**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
COCAINE USERS**

If you currently use cocaine and are interested in participating in an inpatient drug research study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and are:

**Between 18-45
Years of Age**

**Call 1-866-750-2165
for more information**

And to schedule a confidential screening interview to see if you qualify.

Studies will be conducted in the
**Clinical Pharmacology Unit
of a federal medical research facility
in Bethesda, Maryland**

See **GREAT PLACES TO TAKE THE KIDS**

Saturday's Child. Friday. Weekend.

The Washington Post

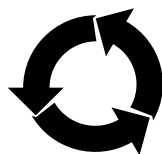
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POWERPLAY TIME: Maria Cruz credits a Los Angeles nutrition program with helping her son lose five pounds, but getting him to change his eating habits is difficult.

Health Help

For parents who can find them, programs help get kids in shape

OBESITY | Maria Cruz prepared dinner, one eye on her son, Abel.

"Junior!" cried Cruz as she spied him sneaking off with chicken. At 4 feet 7, Abel, 8, weighs about 200 pounds, morbidly obese.

At the suggestion of Abel's pediatrician, Cruz enrolled him in PowerPlay MD, a Los Angeles nutrition and exercise program. After a couple of weeks, Abel lost 5 pounds.

Cruz is among millions trying to help their children lose weight. Families often have no idea where to turn. Some choose to enroll their kids in programs like the one that helped Cruz. But, despite the suc-

cess stories, too few of these programs are available.

Experts agree parents are crucial in the battle against childhood obesity. Kids need strong role models and a support system to help them lose weight. But parents need help.

"You cannot wait for these kids to be above the 95th percentile of [body mass index]," Abel's pediatrician, Dr. Luis Lopez, said. "Once they're obese, it's extremely difficult to get them to lose weight."

For parents who do enroll in family-based programs, "they're seeing results, and that's quite powerful," said Dr. Naomi Neufeld, founder and medical director of KidShape, which educates families about nutrition and provides exercise. JEANNINE STEIN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



LIVE ONLINE

Lean Plate Club

SALLY SQUIRES' column appears Tuesdays in The Washington Post. She chats every Tuesday at 1 p.m. on washingtonpost.com/liveonline.

I want to take a good workout video with me over the holidays. Any suggestions?

There are so many to choose from. I happen to really love the

Firm tapes. But there are plenty of others. Double-check how much space you'll have and if you'll have access to any equipment — a step, for instance, or free weights.

I work out but have had a really hard time "getting a grip" on my poor holiday time eating. How do I get my motivation back?

Wait until New Year's to do it. Use the holidays as a time for planning. Browse some healthy cookbooks. Take this time to take stock, and see what you can do when the New Year begins.

UMA'S IN: Uma Thurman is in talks to take on the character of Ulla in Mel Brooks' big-screen adaptation of "The Producers," a role recently vacated by Nicole Kidman.



Entertainment

The Late Late Shift

Craig Ferguson brings diverse background, brogue to late night

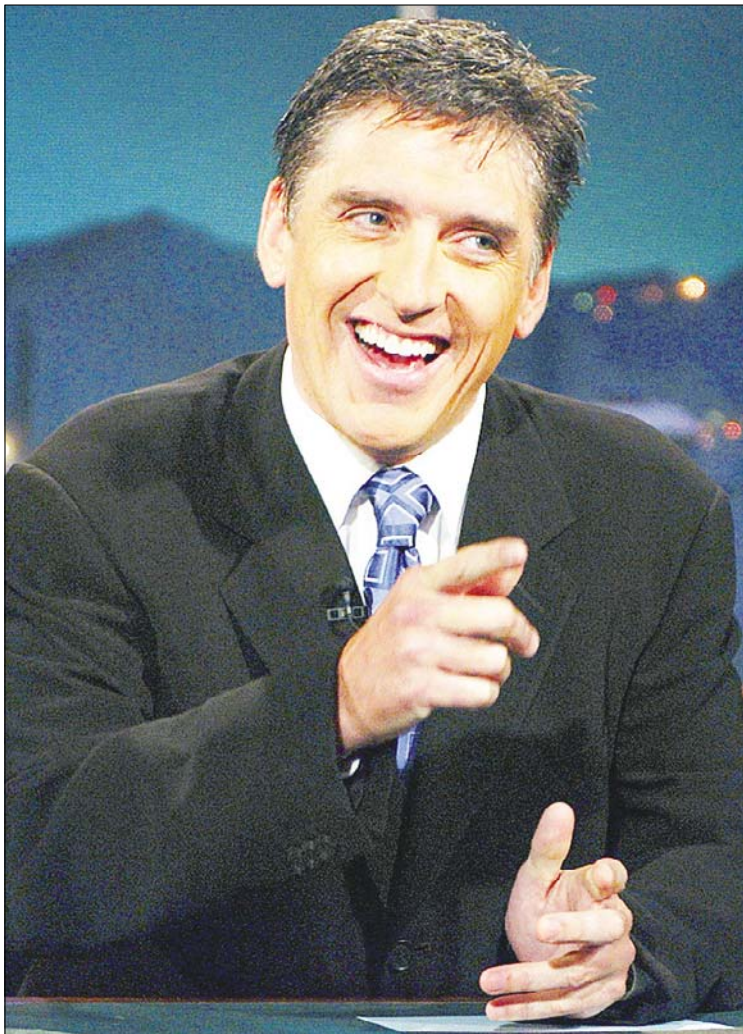
TELEVISION | Craig Ferguson doesn't fit the mold of the typical late-night talk show host — and doesn't plan to be one.

Ferguson doesn't yet know exactly where he's going to take "The Late Late Show," the CBS gig he'll start in mid-January. But there's one thing the former standup comedian — best known to American audiences as the boss on "The Drew Carey Show" — knows for certain: It isn't all about the laughs.

There's the comedic portion at the opening of the show, but that's not the sum of what Ferguson's looking for in a talk show. Ferguson says he considers "The Late Late Show" as a conversation with his guests.

"During that conversation we may be angry, we may laugh, we may get upset, we may remember things that make us sad," Ferguson said. "That's what the show is, isn't it? It's a 45-minute conversation. I have no agenda about hitting a laugh every 45 seconds. I don't care about that."

The Scottish-born Ferguson has spent a career going his own way. Even with seven years on an



CLIFF LIPSON/CBS

Ferguson has his hopes set on a long career of pointing and laughing at celebrities.

American sitcom, Ferguson has made time for his own projects.

He wrote, acted and executive produced an independent film called "The Big Tease" that came out in 1999. He was a producer of and an actor in "Saving Grace," which was released a year later. And his 2003 directorial debut, "I'll Be There," won the top prize at the Aspen Comedy Festival.

When he got the call to step in as one of the guest hosts to possibly replace Craig Kilborn, Ferguson was putting the finishing touches on something decidedly un-show-businesslike: a dark comedic novel that doesn't yet have a publisher.

"It all comes together, doing standup, acting, riding a motorbike, they all work in somehow," Ferguson said. "That's why I think I'm attracted to the job, because it requires all the resources that you have." As for specific changes, Ferguson says he's likely to change the music and the opening sequence.

"That's about it for now. These are just cosmetic changes. They are not major things," he said. "I will find my way over time. To walk in there and change everything on Day One would be a terrible arrogance and I'm not going to do that."

PAUL J. GOUGH (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Family Unfriendly: Gwar Lets it Bleed

When it comes to over-the-top thrash metal, it's hard to rawk much harder — and messier — than Gwar. Formed at Richmond's Virginia Commonwealth University, this band's act is a hard-pumping sexually explicit, fake-blood spewing assault on the senses. With Sugar Daddies and Mensrea.

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; 8:30 p.m., \$15; 703-218-6500 (U St.-Cardozo).



It's possible that at least one member of Gwar won't be wearing any pants.

Long Journey Into Night

After 18 years of misfires, 'Phantom' appears in theaters

FILM | It's been an 18-year journey, but the ghostly hero in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" has finally been coaxed out of the shadows and onto the big screen.

Lloyd Webber, the iconic composer behind "Cats," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita," says he has wanted to make a film of the gothic romance since his show debuted in London in 1986. But a number

of obstacles — including his 1990 divorce from muse and "Phantom" stage star Sarah Brightman, Hollywood's lack of interest in musicals and a worldwide collective of aggressive stage producers — kept the musical off the screen before now.

The play's story originates from a serialized novel by Gaston Leroux, published in 1911. Lloyd Webber became entranced by it when he picked up an old copy and began writing the music for Brightman.

In the mid-1990s, Lloyd Webber began another push to make the movie but was met with resis-



ALEX BAILEY/ICON FILMS

Gerard Butler and Emmy Rossum star in the "Phantom of the Opera" film debut.

tance from studio executives. In those years before the Oscar-winning "Chicago" and surreal-pop "Moulin Rouge!" many producers couldn't fathom investing big money in a musical, a format they believed had little drawing power.

Eventually, Lloyd Webber used \$85 million of his considerable fortune to finance the film himself.

Although there have been an estimated 65,000 performances of the show in 18 countries — each one evaporates except in memory. A film would be, in Lloyd Webber's words, "a fantastic document."

"The most exciting thing about it," he said, "is to feel that this one is a version of the stage show that, I hope, will be around forever."

ANTHONY BREZNICAN (AP)

Holiday Spirit: Reflections on Kwanzaa

2 The Washington Reflections Dance Company and the Dance Institute of Washington take to the stage in the Kennedy Center's annual pageant of dance, poetry and song designed to make the seven principles of Kwanzaa come alive. Expect an array of multimedia delights and a slate of guest artists.

Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, \$12.50-\$18; 202-467-4600.

Continued on page 20

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment



'RIGHT' AWAY: Viewers can sneak a peek of Jennifer Lopez's new music video, "Get Right," this New Year's Eve on MTV. The single is the first from her upcoming album, "Rebirth," set to hit stores in March.

New Life After Death

Michael C. Hall eyes a future after success on 'Six Feet Under'

TRANSITIONS | As the HBO series "Six Feet Under" enters its fifth and final season, Michael C. Hall will begin to explore life after the hit show about death. Since 2001, Hall has put a human face on a

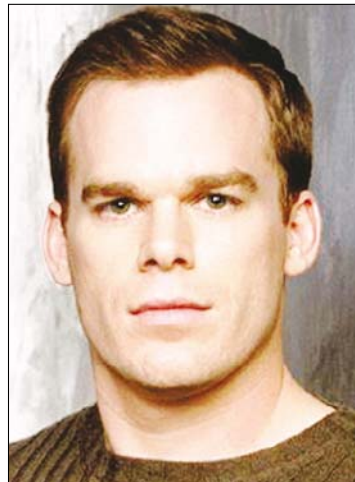
realistically flawed gay character whom audiences can relate to and care about. Hall has navigated David Fisher's life though the death of his father, taking responsibility for the family's funeral-home business, coming out of the closet, maintaining a relationship with a hot-tempered boyfriend, and, most recently, surviving a frightening abduction.

For prior years Hall has won two

SAG Awards and an AFI Award in the ensemble categories. His tour-de-force performance this season will surely garner the Emmy nominee much-needed solo attention.

Having appeared in John Woo's "Paycheck" last year, Hall is curious about his opportunities in the film world but says he isn't ruling out anything in the future.

"That remains to be seen," he said.



"My focus is to hopefully work with really good people and really good material ... and I believe that 'Six Feet Under' would just enhance my ability to do that."

Hall and his wife, Amy Spanger, recently bought a house in New York hoping to continue their work onstage. The two starred opposite each other in a 2002 Broadway revival of "Chicago." "I feel like I've constantly found myself in the midst of something that I only once imagined, but you're no longer the person who imagined it. You're just you now."

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MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ♫ CC ✓ 12:15, 3:00, 6:05, 9:00
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:40, 10:35
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) ✓ 11:20, 12:30, 2:00, 3:15, 4:45, 6:20, 7:40, 9:15, 10:30
SPANGLISH (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 1:30, 3:35, 4:40, 6:35, 7:55, 9:50
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:40, 3:45, 6:30, 9:45
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 10:50
CLOSER (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG13) ✓ 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:15
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 10:50 PM
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 8:05, 11:00
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:10, 2:35
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 5:10, 8:10
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 11:35, 2:20, 5:20

COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 4:00, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 7:40, 10:15
CLOSER (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:50, 3:00
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15
SIDWAYS (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30

POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste B86
703-998-4262

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30
THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 8:00, 10:35
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 10:10, 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 7:30, 9:50
LIFE AQUATIC (R) ✓ 11:10, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 10:20, 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:10, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:25
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ♫ CC ✓ 12:20, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00, 11:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 11:05, 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 10:00, 11:40, 12:45, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25, 11:30
SPANGLISH (PG13) 11:25, 1:30, 3:15, 4:30, 6:05, 7:30, 8:55, 10:20, 11:30
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 10:40, 1:50, 4:50, 8:10, 11:10
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 2:30, 5:35, 8:15, 10:55
CLOSER (R) 12:10, 3:05, 5:45, 8:20, 10:50
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 5:30, 7:45, 10:25
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 5:40, 8:30, 11:20
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 10:50, 1:15, 3:30
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 10:15, 12:35, 3:00
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 10:30, 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20

MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

FAT ALBERT (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:45, 1:30, 3:35, 4:25, 6:45, 7:25, 9:30, 10:25
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:00, 1:00, 2:45, 3:45, 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:45, 10:55
BRIDGET JONES 2 (R) 10:00 PM
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:35

ACADEMY 8

Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., Center Court
703-998-4AMC

CALL THEATER FOR MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
703-998-4AMC.

COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
410-423-0520

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:25, 3:00, 6:45, 10:30
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 10:20, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
LIFE AQUATIC (R) ✓ 10:45, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:55
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 11:40, 2:15, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ♫ CC ✓ 11:40, 2:15, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:45, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 10:20, 1:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
CLOSER (R) 10:05, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 9:55 PM
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 5:05, 8:00, 11:00
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 10:10, 12:20, 2:50
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 11:45, 2:10, 4:40
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 10:15, 1:00, 4:10, 7:10

COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6

Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.
703-998-4AMC

FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 7:15, 9:45
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) ✓ 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
SPANGLISH (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:00, 9:55
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45

UNION STATION 9

Located at Union Station
703-998-4AMC

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:40
THE AVIATOR (PG13) CC ✓ 12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:40
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:25, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:45, 10:30
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:20, 10:20
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:45, 4:30

RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

DARKNESS (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20
FAT ALBERT (PG) 2:20, 5:20, 8:00
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 7:50
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 2:30, 5:30, 8:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 2:10, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 2:10
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 1:50, 4:50
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
RAY (PG13) 6:50, 10:10

ACADEMY 6

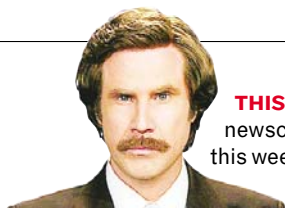
Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., West Court
703-998-4AMC

DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:40, 2:50, 5:20
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
RAY (PG13) 7:10, 10:20
THE GRUDGE (PG13) 7:30, 10:00

SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loidale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:40, 3:15, 6:50, 10:30
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 1:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 7:45, 10:20
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) ♫ CC 5:20
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:00, 10:00
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) ♫ CC 12:30, 2:55
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 12:50, 4:00



THIS JUST IN: "Anchorman," Will Ferrell's turn as a egomaniacal newscaster — clearly a work of fiction — hits the home video shelves this week, alongside films like "Garden State" and "Open Water."

Entertainment

See the Softer Side of Eve

Rapper sheds hardcore image for UPN show

TELEVISION | Starring in her own sitcom allows Eve to reveal a side not usually associated with the hardcore rapper image that made her famous.

"The part that people know the least about her comes across most in this show: There's a seriously

girlie girl side to her," said co-star Jason George.

Eve plays fashion designer Shelly Williams, the central character on UPN's "Eve" — about a group of friends struggling with modern attitudes about romance. Now in

its second season, the series airs Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

Fans are more familiar with the harder-edged Eve depicted in her music. After breaking into hip-hop as a protege of gangsta rap pioneer Dr. Dre, Eve released three successful solo albums: "Let There Be Eve," "Scorpion" — which featured the



Eve showcases her versatility on TV.

2001 Grammy-winning single "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," recorded with Gwen Stefani — and "Eve-olution."

Last season, Eve admits, there were moments when, "I just wanted to leave because there was so much to learn." But the adjustment to a TV schedule has been easier this second season, she says.

"It feels like 'Wow, this is home.' I love my cast, I love my crew ... it's exciting. I'm having fun."

BRIDGET BYRNE (AP)

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Showtimes for: 12/28/04

MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES
CAPITAL CENTER
800 Shopper's way, Largo 301-324-4220

★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (11:00 1:30 4:00) 6:30 9:00
★ DARKNESS (PG-13) (11:10 1:40 4:10) 7:10 9:10
★ THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (11:20 1:50 4:20)
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 8:00 10:30
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) (11:15 1:45 4:15)
RAY (PG-13) 7:15 10:45
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:25 1:55 4:25) 7:25 9:55
★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (1:35 4:35) 7:35 10:35
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (12:05 3:00) 6:05 9:05
THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) (12:30 2:40 4:40)
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 6:40 9:40
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (11:35 2:25 5:25)
★ NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:55 10:55
★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (12:00 2:30 5:00) 7:30 10:00
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:40 3:40) 7:40 10:40

Cineplex Odeon WISCONSIN AVE. CINEMAS
4000 Wisconsin Avenue N.W. 202-244-0882

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (1:20 3:50) 6:20 9:10
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (1:10 4:00) 6:50 9:25
★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (2:00 5:10) 8:20
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (1:00 3:40) 6:30 9:20
CLOSER (R) (1:30 4:00) 6:40 9:30

Loews WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda 310-423-1014

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (1:30 4:05) 6:55 9:25

★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (1:05 3:50) 6:40 9:30

★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (1:20 4:00) 6:45 9:35

OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (3:45) 6:30 9:15

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (1:00 3:55) 6:50 9:45

THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1:10)

Cineplex Odeon SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph 703-674-0978

SIDEWAYS (R) (1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:50

★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (12:50 4:00) 6:50 9:40

CLOSER (R) (1:10 4:30) 7:10 9:30

★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:40 3:30) 6:30 9:20

★ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) (1:30 4:20) 7:20 10:00

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:00 4:00) 8:00

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (12:30 3:10) 6:10 9:10

Loews WHEATON PLAZA 11
Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center,
Viers Mill Rd. Btwn. Georgia & University 901-949-9202

OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (11:00 2:00 4:40) 7:40 10:20

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:20 2:50) 6:10 9:30

BLADE: TRINITY (R) (5:30) 8:00 10:30

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) (12:20 3:00)

THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1:00)

CLOSER (R) (3:30) 6:40 9:20

★ DARKNESS (PG-13) (12:10 2:30 4:50) 7:10 9:40

★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (12:00 3:10) 6:20 9:10

★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (11:30 1:50 4:00) 6:30 9:00

NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 6:50 10:10

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (12:30 3:20)

★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (11:40 2:10 4:30) 7:00 9:45

★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (1:15 2:20 5:00) 7:30 10:00

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:10 1:40 4:20) 7:20 9:50

CINEPLEX ODEON CINEMA
5100 Wisconsin Avenue 202-966-7248

★ A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (1:45 4:45) 8:00

Cineplex Odeon TYSONS FARIFAX SQUARE
8065 Leesburgh Pike 703-506-9857

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:30 3:00) 6:30 10:00

★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (11:00 2:50) 6:40 9:30

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:40 2:10) 6:20 9:00

★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (12:20 3:10) 6:50 9:40

★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:10 3:20) 7:00 9:50

OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (11:45 2:40) 6:45 9:20

★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:30 3:30) 7:10 9:45

CLOSER (R) (2:20 4:30) 7:20 9:55

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (12:00)

Cineplex Odeon DUPONT CIRCLE 5
1350 19th Street 202-972-9956

WHAT THE BLEEP! DO WE KNOW? (NR) (1:40 4:20) 7:10 9:50

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (R) (1:00 3:50) 6:50 9:45

RAY (PG-13) (2:00 5:30) 8:50

KINSEY (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:40

FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1:10 3:40) 6:30 9:20

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Loews GEORGETOWN
3111 K Street, N.W. 202-342-6033

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:00 2:30) 6:00 9:30

★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:10 2:50 5:30) 8:10 10:50

★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (12:40 3:20 4:50) 6:10 7:30 8:50 10:10

★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (12:20 3:30 5:20) 6:40 8:30 9:50

★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (1:00 3:50) 6:50 9:40

★ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) (1:20 4:00) 7:10 9:50

★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:00 3:10) 6:20 9:10

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:40 2:20 5:00) 7:40 10:20

OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (1:30 4:20) 7:10 10:00

CLOSER (R) (12:30 3:00 5:40) 8:20 10:40

SIDEWAYS (R) (1:50) 10:30

BLADE: TRINITY (R) (5:10) 11:00

NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) (1:40) 8:00

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (11:20 2:00)

THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (11:30 2:10)

★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (11:00)

Cineplex Odeon UPTOWN
3426 Connecticut Avenue 202-966-8805

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:00 2:40) 6:30 10:10

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701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#	5200 Major Lane Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#	3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#
FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1205 220 440) 700 920	DARKNESS (PG-13) (1040 125 415) 715 955	Call Theatre for Showtimes
OCEAN'S 12 (OPEN CAPTION) (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (205) 725	FAT ALBERT (PG) (1120 200 440) 740 1010	BETHESDA 10
THE AVIATOR (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1200 1230 400 430) 800 830	LIFE AQUATIC (R) - ID REQ'D (1020 120 420) 720 1020	7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1100 1150 145 235 425	THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1000 155 545) 945	MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG ★ (130 400 440) 710
515) 710 755 950 1035	MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) ★ (1230 130 330 430) 640 730 940 1030	
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1215 100 320 405) 640 720 945 1025	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (1025 115 405) 700 1005	740 950 1020
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1130 445) 1000	LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) ★ (1015 100 400) 705 1000	THE AVIATOR (PG-13) DIG (100 430) 800
LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1105 135 415) 650 925	SPANGLISH (PG-13) ★ (1010 110 410) 725 1035	FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (1210 235 500) 750 1015
SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1245 350) 645 940	OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (1000 1255 355) 700 1000 1040	FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (1210 230 445) 700 930
BLADE: TRINITY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1135 210 445) 730 1010	BLADE: TRINITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1005 1250 345) 710 1015	LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE
CLOSER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1120 150 425) 705 955	CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) (1035 120 405) 650 950	EVENTS (PG) DIG (1150 220 450) 720 950
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1110 140 410) 655 930	NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 735 1040	SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (110 410) 705 1000
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) DIG (Stadium) 715 1005	POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1135 210 500) 750	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) DIG (1240 340)
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1115 155 435)	THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (1010 110 410)	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) DIG (1250 350) 740
BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12	ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13	
Ballston Common Mall, Glebe Rd. Arlington (703) 527-9466 800-FANDANGO 377#	Rockville Town Center (301) 340-9390 800-FANDANGO 248#	
FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (1205 230 455) 720 950	LIFE AQUATIC (R) - ID REQ'D (1030 130 435) 730 1035	
LIFE AQUATIC (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1035 130 435) 730 1025	THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1200 400) 800	
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG ★ (1110 1200 150 235 420 510) 710 800 945 1035	MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) ★ (1230 100 320 430) 710 740 1000	
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) DIG (1040 1215 155 330 505) 700 815 1005	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (1215 330) 700 1015	
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) DIG (1045 140 430) 715 955	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (1115 215) 650 950	
LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) DIG (1135 215 450) 735 1010	LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (1015	
SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (1030 135 425) 725 1020	115 415) 715 1020	
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) DIG (100 400) 705 740 1000 1030	SPANGLISH (PG-13) (1210 355) 720 1025	
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (1050 120 410) 650 940	OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (1130 230) 645 945	
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (1025 125 415)	BLADE: TRINITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1120 240) 630 940	
	CLOSER (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 300) 640 930	
	FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1100 200 500) 750 1040	
	SIDEWAYS (R) - ID REQ'D (125 440) 735 1045	
	THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (1000)	

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Entertainment



TAKE A CHANCE ON THEM: Synth-pop duo Erasure has announced a tour in support of its new album, "Nightbird," due out Jan. 25. Erasure kicks off its shows April 14, and hits D.C.'s own 9:30 Club on May 2 and 3.

All Rev, No Ride

'American Chopper' is light on the detailing

VIDEO GAMES | Never mind the name — the low-budget game "American Chopper" has little to do with the popular Discovery Channel TV series. Building custom, high-powered motorcycles was evidently deemed too boring for this game, leaving a series of rides that require you to race a chopper from

Point A to Point B to retrieve parts like spark plugs.

As you progress through the game's 50 repetitive missions, you'll encounter rival gangs. (Of mechanics? We're not sure.) You can earn extra points by running on sidewalks and scaring innocent pedestrians — but if you splatter them against



"Chopper" has lots of sound, little fury.

a wall, you get points deducted.

The game does offer numerous bikes to choose from, but customizing them beyond recognition —

the entire point of the show — isn't allowed. All you can do is bolt on parts between rides, without getting a different feel or better performance.

Graphics look sub-par across the board, and the tinny soundtrack and muffled chopper engines encourage frequent use of the mute button. The show's characters come off worst of all; Paul Sr. looks and sounds more like a mobster than a biker, except when the stiff animation makes him resemble a zombie. This game needs serious shop time.

JOHN GAUDIOSI (AP)

Today's Top Stops

Continued from page 17

**To Inform and Entertain:
Ignorance Isn't Bliss**

3 Put on your thinking cap if you're planning to see Chris Bliss. He's at the Improv with an act billed as "smart comedy for the information age."

The Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; 8:30; \$15-\$17. 202-296-7008.

The Bathing of the Red Horse Kuzma S. Petrov-Vodkin 1912 The State Tretyakov Gallery



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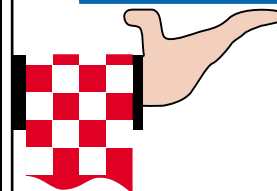
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AFTER 'RAY': Following a captivating performance as Ray Charles' mother in the movie "Ray," Hollywood newcomer Sharon Warren has inked a talent hold-ing deal with CBS. The agreement has her starring in a pilot targeted for 2005.



Television

ON TV TONIGHT

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Given the decided non-buzz for his lit-tle-watched reality series, you'd figure tycoon Richard Branson would shy away from the cameras. But you'd be wrong. The decidedly non-reclusive billionaire shows up to show off his digs on **CRIBS** (10:30 p.m., MTV), along with other wall-flowers including Lil Jon, Casey Mears and NFL player Bobby Taylor.

FEEL THE BURN

Q: Where is the week after Christmas just like August? A: On TV. It's the time when networks "burn off" shows while nobody's watching. Hence, three consec-

BAD KITTY: NBC will burn off three epi-sodes of "Father of the Pride" tonight.

utive episodes of **FATHER OF THE PRIDE** (NBC, TV-14): Kate's comments put the PTA in a fowl mood (8 p.m.); obnoxious neighbors (8:30 p.m.); an anniversary for-gotten (9 p.m.) KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)



NBC

The Amazing Racists?

Cultural awareness lost with luggage as cast explores Africa

TELEVISION | It's just a matter of time before somebody calls some of the contestants on "The Amazing Race" (9 p.m., CBS) the Amazing Racists, so it might as well be me. This show has had plenty of "ugly American" moments in the past, but now it seems to be getting out of hand.

The "Race" Web site brags about the show's ability to "slow down" and take in historic places, and "make you think," but profound contempla-



MONTY BRINTON/CBS

Rebecca, here with Adam, showed off her misguided take on the slave trade.

tion was hardly in evidence during the racers' latest African sojourn.

While entering a slave museum, Rebecca, the bickering former girl-friend of "Hellboy" Adam, cracked that she wasn't surprised that so many people "escaped" from Africa. Now that's a novel way to look at the Middle Passage. While rush-ing to the airport, Kendra couldn't hide her disgust with Africa and Africans. "They just keep breeding," she said of Senegal's poorer citizens.

The folks at CBS, "Race" and their advertisers should wake up and smell the outrage. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.28.04	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC (4) News			NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Father of Pride	Father of Pride	Father of Pride	Scrubs	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	News	The Tonight Show
	WTTG (5) The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Friends	Seinfeld	Billionaire: Quest for Best		House "Fidelity" (N)	According to Jim	20/20 Special Edition: New Year	Friends	Drew Carey	
	WJLA (7) News	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez		Rodney	Judging Amy "Accountability"	News	(35) Nightline	
	WUSA (9) News	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Vanished"		The Amazing Race 6 (N)		That '70s Show	News	(35) Late Show	
	WDCA (20) Girlfriends	Girlfriends	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	College Basketball Liberty at Maryland. (Live)				Frontline "The Alternative Fix"	That '70s Show	Every-Raymond	Dharma & Greg
	WMPT (22) The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Business Rpt.	Outdoors Md.	American Experience "Transcontinental Railroad" (DVS)				Frontline "The Alternative Fix"		P.O.V. Advancements in technology.	
LOCAL CHANNELS	WETA (26) BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nova "Galileo's Battle for the Heavens" (DVS)				Frontline "The Alternative Fix"		Charlie Rose (N)	
	WHUT (32) Business Schl	Front and Center	BBC World News	MoneyWise	American Experience		History Detectives		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
WBDC (50) The Parkers	Steve Harvey	The Parkers	Steve Harvey	Gilmore Girls			High School Reunion (N)		Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Blind Date
BASIC CABLE	A&E City Confidential		American Justice "Driven to Kill"	Cold Case Files			Cold Case Files A murder goes awry.		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Crossing Jordan "Dead Wives Club"	
	Animal The Crocodile Hunter		The Most Extreme "Cheats"	Austin Stevens: Snakemaster			The Most Extreme Extreme births.		Miami Animal Police		Austin Stevens: Snakemaster	
BASIC CABLE	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		BET Style	The Parkers	Girlfriends		BET Comedy Awards Award presentations.				BET Nightly News/BET Style	
	Bravo Showbiz Moms & Dads		The West Wing "The Red Mass"	Moving Image Salutes John Travolta			Project Runway		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy		The West Wing "The Red Mass"	
BASIC CABLE	Comedy Mad TV		Mad TV	Mad TV			Chris Rock: Bring the Pain		*** "Dogma" (1999, Comedy) Ben Affleck, Matt Damon			
	Court NYPD Blue "Daveless in New York"		Cops	Cops			Forensic Files	North Mission	Masterminds	Caught	Extreme Evidence	Extreme Evidence
BASIC CABLE	Discovery Monster House "Hero: Firehouse"		American Chopper "Liberty Bike 2"	Poisonous Women			Mummy Autopsy (N)		World Biker Build-Off		Poisonous Women	
	DISCH Chicago Hope "Karmic Relief"		Trauma: Life in the ER	Twins by Surrogacy			Babies: Special Delivery		Make Room for Baby "Flower Power"		Twins by Surrogacy	
BASIC CABLE	Disney Lizzie McGuire	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	★ "Model Behavior" (2000) Kathie Lee Gifford, Justin Timberlake		Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	Even Stevens	Boy Meets World		
	E! Love Is in the Heir	Love Is in the Heir	E! News (N)	It's Good to Be	Entertainer of the Year		Sexy, Single, and Filthy Rich		Billionaire Brotherhood: True Story		Howard Stern	Howard Stern
BASIC CABLE	FX Fear Factor		King of the Hill	King of the Hill	★ "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell. Mountain climbers are trapped in an icy cave on K2.		Fear Factor				King of the Hill	
	HGTV Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Designer Finals	Decorating Cents	Divine Design	Designers'		Painted House	Crafters Coast
BASIC CABLE	Family 7th Heaven "The Anniversary"		Smallville "Witness"		★ "One Fine Day" (1996, Comedy) Michelle Pfeiffer, George Clooney.		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club			
	History Al Qaeda's Navy Merchant freighters.		Modern Marvels		Wild West Tech "Disaster Tech" (N)		Modern Marvels "Doomsday Tech 1"		Modern Marvels (N)		Hooked: Illegal Drugs	
BASIC CABLE	Lifetime (5:00) ★★ "Dying to Love You"		★ "Forever Love" (1998, Drama) Reba McEntire, Tim Matheson.		"An Unfinished Affair" (1996, Drama) Jennie Garth, Tim Matheson.		The Nanny		The Golden Girls			
	MTV The Real World	The Real World	The Real World	The Real World	The Real World		MTV Cribs		MTV Cribs			
BASIC CABLE	NICK Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob	★ "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) Voices of Megan Cavanagh.		Fatherhood	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	The Cosby Show	Roseanne			
	SCI FI Stargate SG-1 "Enemies"		★ "Wishmaster 2: Evil Never Dies" (1999, Horror) Andrew Divoff.		★ "Wishmaster 3: Beyond the Gates of Hell" (2001) A.J. Cook.		"Necronomicon: Book of the Dead"					
BASIC CABLE	SPIKE ★★ "Octopussy" (1983) Roger Moore. Agent James Bond fights Russians planning world conquest.		Friends	Friends			★ "A View to a Kill" (1985) Roger Moore. Agent 007 fights a genetic superman bent on world conquest.					
	TBS Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Every-Raymond	Friends	Friends		Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(10) ★★ "Men in Black" (1997) (PA) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith.			
BASIC CABLE	TLC Clean Sweep		In a Fix Fixer-upper home.	American Hot Rod			Overhaulin' "Surfer Kid"		Rides New Ford Cobra prototype.		American Hot Rod	
	TNT Charmed "Charmed Again"		Law & Order "The Fire This Time"	Law & Order "Nowhere Man"			Law & Order "Trade This"		Charmed		Law & Order "Second Opinion"	
BASIC CABLE	USA ★★ "Jeepers Creepers" (2001, Horror) Gina Phillips, Justin Long.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		★ "The First Wives Club" (1996) Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit					
	VHI ★★ "Selena" (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez. Based on the life and brief career of the murdered singer.				★ "Rock Star" (2001) Mark Wahlberg. A singer lands a gig with his heavy-metal heroes.						Purple Rain (1984)	
SPAN.	TELEM Corte-Pueblo	Noti-Telemndo	Anita No Te Rajes	La Mujer en el Espejo			Gitanas		Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer		Noticiero Tel.	Laura
	UNIV Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera	Rubí			Amor Real		Veremos Todo con Niurka		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN SportsCenter	College Football Independence Bowl -- Iowa State vs. Miami-Ohio. From Shreveport, La. (Live)					(45) College Football Insight Bowl -- Notre Dame vs. Oregon State. From Phoenix. (Live)					
	ESPN2 NFL Films	NFL Live	College Basketball All-College Classic -- Tulsa at Oklahoma. (Live)				College Basketball All-College Classic -- Gonzaga vs. Oklahoma State. From Oklahoma City.					SportsCenter
SPORTS	CSN I, Max (N)	SportsNite	Beyond the Glory	Hockey Worldstars vs. Russian All-Stars. From Moscow.			SportsNite (Live)		Pro View		Best-Sports	
	CNN Lou Dobbs Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360	Paula Zahn Now			Larry King Live		NewsNight With Aaron Brown		Lou Dobbs Tonight	
NEWS	FNC Special Report (Live)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live)			Hannity & Colmes (Live)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC The Abrams Report (Live)		Hardball (Live)	Countdown With Keith Olbermann			Deborah Norville Tonight		Scarborough Country (Live)		Hardball	
MOVIES	AMC (4:45) ★★ "Hatairi!" (1962, Adventure) John Wayne. 'NR'		★ "The Sea Chase" (1955, Adventure) John Wayne, Lana Turner, Tab Hunter. 'NR'		★ "In Harm's Way" (1965) John Wayne. 'NR'							
	TCM ★★ "Shadow of the Thin Man" (1941, Mystery) William Powell. 'NR'		★ "The Defiant Ones" (1958, Drama) Tony Curtis, Sidney Poitier. 'NR'		★★★★ "In the Heat of the Night" (1967, Mystery) Sidney Poitier. 'NR'							
MOVIES	HBO ★★ "Welcome to Mooseport" (2004) Gene Hackman. 'PG-13'		The Sopranos "Marco Polo"	The Sopranos			Real Sports (N)		Carnivale "Day of the Dead"			
	MAX From Dusk	★ "Cradle 2 the Grave" (2003) Jet Li. 'R'	(15) ★★ "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (2004) Kate Bosworth. 'PG-13'		★ "Runaway Jury" (2003, Suspense) John Cusack. 'PG-13'							
MOVIES	SHOW (5:45) ★★ "The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course"	(25) ★★ "The Hunted" (2003) Tommy Lee Jones. 'R'	★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) iTV. 'R'		★ "Step Into Liquid" (2003) 'PG'							
	TMC (15) ★★ "Stealing Time" (2001, Drama) Peter Facinelli. 'R'		★★★★ "The Big Chill" (1983, Drama) Tom Berenger. 'R'		★ "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" (2002) 'R'							
MOVIES	STARZ! (5:30) ★★ "Spy Kids 3: Game Over"	★★★ "Calendar Girls" (2003) Helen Mirren, Julie Walters. 'PG-13'	★ "Duplex" (2003) Ben Stiller. 'PG-13'		(35) ★★ "Finding Nemo" (2003) 'G'							
	ENCORE (15) ★★ "Sidekicks" (1993, Drama) Chuck Norris. 'PG'		★★★ "Operation Dumbo Drop" (1995, Comedy) Danny Glover. 'PG'		★ "In the Army Now" (1994) Pauly Shore. 'PG'							

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LOOK outK*

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

GET WITH THE PROGRAM: MTV International networks set up shop at a French exhibition in October.



RICHARD HARTOG/L.A. TIMES

Entertainment

The music network heads overseas to tap vast new markets

Dreams of world domination must be hard to resist for MTV executives at a party at the Kremlin, with a Russian diva and Queen dueting on "We Will Rock You" and Russian soldiers performing a hip-hop dance routine.

MTV Networks will reach a milestone in February with the start of an MTV outlet in Africa, the company's 100th channel worldwide and first there.

MTV and its sister networks have blanketed the world in an aggressive expansion drive.

Much of it is the work of Bill Roedy, who joined MTV shortly after its first international network, MTV Europe, opened in Amsterdam in 1987.

Of the 100 worldwide networks, 43 are some variation of MTV — such as Africa's new network, MTV

Getting Their MTV



PIMPED UP: The auto-makeover show "Pimp My Ride" is an international hit.

Base. Twenty-three are Nickelodeon offshoots, 15 are VH1s and the rest include networks that MTV's parent company, Viacom, owns.

MTV estimates that at least one of its networks is available in one-third of the world's homes with televisions. About 80 percent

of its viewership is outside of the United States.

The United States is a "mature" market with limited expansion possibilities, Roedy said. "The long-term future is international."

There's a Nickelodeon in Nepal, and a Nickelodeon Nordic dubbed in Swedish, Norwegian and Danish. Launched last year, MTV Guangdong is available to 77 million homes in China and Hong Kong. MTV Indonesia includes a regular call to prayer for its Islamic audience. MTV Australia films a version of "Total Request Live" from

Sydney Harbor.

Each channel reflects the local culture, Roedy said. MTV in Japan is very edgy, tech-oriented, while the stylistic MTV in Italy has food programming.

Programming is a mix of American shows, versions of formats developed in America — such as Australia's "TRL" or video awards shows — and original unique material.

"Real World" is MTV's most popular show in the United States, but international audiences have little patience for self-absorbed young Americans living together.

Jessica and Ashlee Simpson have big followings overseas. The most popular MTV offering internationally is the auto makeover show "Pimp My Ride." It's made host Xzibit a worldwide star, said Brian Graden, MTV/VH1 entertainment president.

MTV in Germany is even making a pilot for a variation: "Pimp My Bicycle."

Some locally produced shows have also done well in their own cultures. For example, "Megaliga" on MTV Brasil turns VJs into animated characters with superpowers. **DAVID BAUDER (AP)**

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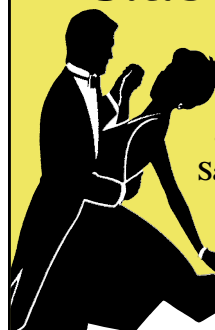
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Movies

'Engagement'

"Amelie" director **JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET** was online Friday, Nov. 19 to discuss his latest film, "A Very Long Engagement" | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Salut! Thank you for making such magical films. What has been your inspiration?

In French, we say there's 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration.

What was it about the novel that sparked your interest in adapting "A Very Long Engagement" into a screenplay?

Three different things: My fascination with WWI, the opportunity to recreate the '20s in Paris and, of course, the character of Mathilde.

How do you think your style of movie making (planning, storyboards, sound recording, special effects) compares to your contemporaries and to French filmmakers of the past?

I don't feel French. Luckily my films are released everywhere in the world and in France. For French people, I come from another planet.

In the DVD of "Amelie," you talk about accenting colors. Is that coloring technique one you plan to use

in all of your films?

Yes, the digital tool is very useful. For "Engagement" we spent seven weeks to fix the color and we made digital masks to fix just a certain part of the picture because I pay attention to the aesthetics.

Your films are the most original and refreshing I've ever seen. How long did it take to make this film? Where did most of the filming take place?

We spent two years to make the film. We shot in Brittany, Corsica, and we made the trench in a military camp in France. Only the shooting was 22 weeks.

Which directors are your favorites?

Two very important films in my life when I was a teenager were "Once Upon a Time in the West" by Sergio Leone, and "A Clockwork Orange" from Stanley Kubrick. And later, "Citizen Kane" by Orson Welles and "Night of the Hunter" by Charles Laughton.

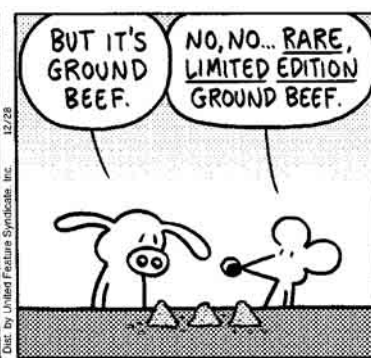
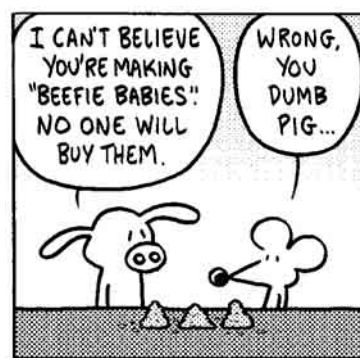
→ Live Online

NOTE: Washingtonpost.com's live chats will resume Monday, Jan. 3, 2005.

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Baseball Over Education?

I'M TRYING TO understand what some of our local leaders are thinking. They want to build a million-dollar baseball stadium in Washington to house the new

team using public funding — even though the D.C. public school system is falling apart and our children are not getting the education they should be getting. Shouldn't schools come first? Am I the only one who has noticed their priorities are out of whack?

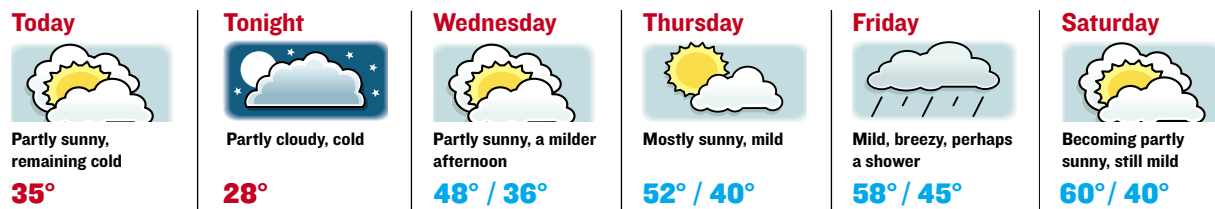
—RALPH FOOTE
Prince George's County

Lay Off on Jackson

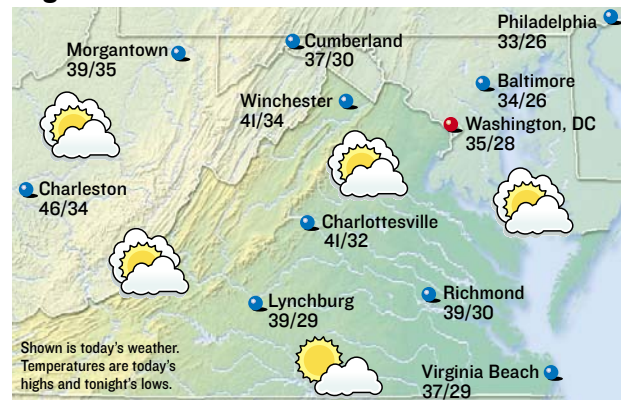
IN RESPONSE to last week's letter about Michael Jackson: I am in agreement that this paper constantly makes negative remarks about this talented individual. He has a serious fan base and all negative media attention does is bring us together.

—MARCELLIA KEMP
Washington, D.C.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Regional Weather



All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2004

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Mon.

Temperature

High 32°
Low 25°
Normal high 44°
Normal low 29°
Average humidity 32%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 3.05"
Normal month to date 2.65"
Year to date 42.49"
Last year to date 60.81"
Normal year to date 39.06"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
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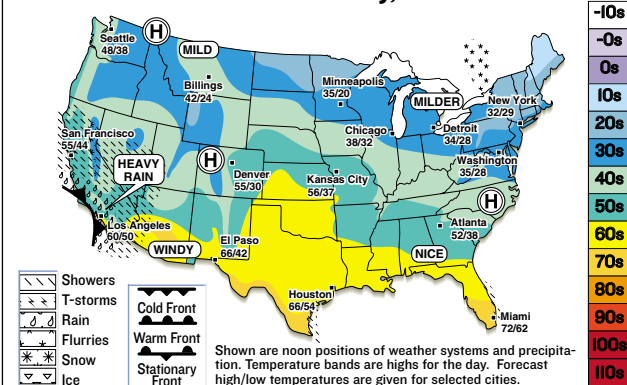
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, cold. High 35. Wind becoming southwest 8-14 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 22 in a few suburbs to 28 in the city.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:54 p.m.
Moonrise today 6:39 p.m.
Moonset today 9:15 a.m.



National Weather for Tuesday, December 28



National Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	52/38/s	56/45/pc
Boston	29/26/pc	38/32/pc
Chicago	38/32/pc	44/36/pc
Dallas	62/52/pc	65/56/sh
Denver	55/30/pc	55/30/pc
Honolulu	80/67/sh	80/69/sh
Los Angeles	60/50/r	60/48/sh
Miami	72/62/sh	73/65/sh
New York City	32/29/pc	45/37/pc
Orlando	66/52/pc	72/55/pc
Seattle	48/38/pc	46/40/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Amsterdam	38/31/sn	39/36/c
Athens	59/45/r	53/42/r
Berlin	32/23/c	34/29/c
Buenos Aires	88/68/t	81/64/t
Calgary	35/10/pc	31/8/c
Dublin	43/35/c	54/46/sh
Geneva	30/24/sn	29/25/sn
Moscow	32/25/sn	32/23/sn
Rome	49/36/sh	46/34/r
Sydney	72/55/pc	70/57/pc
Tokyo	43/33/s	45/30/r

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

People

COMEBACKS

Baio in Charge at NBC Show; Joanie Already Loves It

His career went from "Happy Days" teen idoldom to late-night punch-line faster than you can say "Chachi" — but now network television is ready to give **SCOTT BAIIO** another shot. NBC has signed Baio to star in a new series about a fortysomething who moves in with a guy in his 20s, then seriously cramps his style, the



Hollywood Reporter said. Baio, 43, is known for his roles in '80s sitcoms like "Charles in Charge," but has recently shown up on the small screen in CBS's "Diagnosis Murder" and in forgettable film appearances like "Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2." (EXPRESS)



Sure, bugging muckety-mucks is cool. But what he really wants to do is direct.

HEALTH

The Funniest Guy in Rehab

Comedian **GEORGE CARLIN** is entering a drug rehabilitation facility to shake his dependence on wine and a painkiller. "I'm going into rehab because I use too much wine and Vicodin," the 67-year-old Carlin said in a statement released Monday by his publicist Jeff Abraham. "No one told me I needed this. I recognized the problem and took the step myself." Carlin, who performs his standup comedy in Las Vegas showrooms and is the author of the best-selling "When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?", said he's never before been treated in a rehabilitation facility. (AP)



JIM COOPER/AP

CRUSADES

Drug Companies On Lookout, Razor-Makers Not Worried

Some pharmaceutical companies are telling their employees to look out for the scruffy guy in the baseball cap. The Houston Chronicle reported Saturday that at least six drug companies have released internal communications telling employees to be wary of filmmaker **MICHAEL MOORE**. Moore's past targets have included General Motors ("Roger & Me"), the gun lobby (the Oscar-winning "Bowling for Columbine") and President Bush ("Fahrenheit 9/11"). (AP)



Try not to worry about Sarah Steele's horrible weight gain. Ghastly, isn't it?

JIM RUYMEN/REUTERS

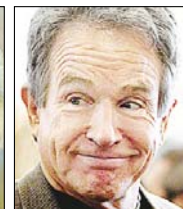
FOOD

Young Actress Gains Weight For Movie Role, Lives

Renee Zellweger isn't the only actress packing on the pounds for plum roles these days. **SARAH STEELE**, the 16-year-old actress who plays the overweight daughter of Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni in the comedy-drama "Spanglish," had to gain between 15 and 17 pounds for the role. "And then I had my fat suit. It was cotton and spandex. It was pretty uncomfortable," the 5-foot-tall Steele told the Los Angeles Times for Sunday's editions. Steele normally fluctuates between a size 1 and 2. She said she did not use a special diet to gain the weight because the food on the set was so good. (AP)



Carradine



Not Carradine

ROLE ROLLOVERS

When Beatty Simply Won't Do, Call in the Has-Been

DAVID CARRADINE says he inspired the title role in the "Kill Bill" movies, but the part was originally written for **WARREN BEATTY**. Carradine explained during an interview with the Chicago Tribune earlier this year that Beatty initially landed the role but director Quentin Tarantino kept instructing him to act like Carradine. "Then the part comes to me and it fits like a glove because it's actually written about me," Carradine said. "All I had to do was show up and learn the lines." (AP)

SHOCKING!

Singer Refuses Tribute; Celebrities Gasp in Horror

Roses are red, my love, violets are blue. Sugar is sweet, my love, but a \$100,000 tribute is too much ado. That's the message **BOBBY VINTON** has for Canonsburg, Pa., the crooner's former hometown, in nixing plans for a statue and tribute to him. The 69-year-old Vinton, a '60s pop idol perhaps best known for the love song "Roses Are Red," said he wouldn't support the effort. "I feel that a tribute of this magnitude ... is inappropriate," Vinton wrote. (AP)



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1945

On Dec. 28, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance; also, in 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first U.S. vice president to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

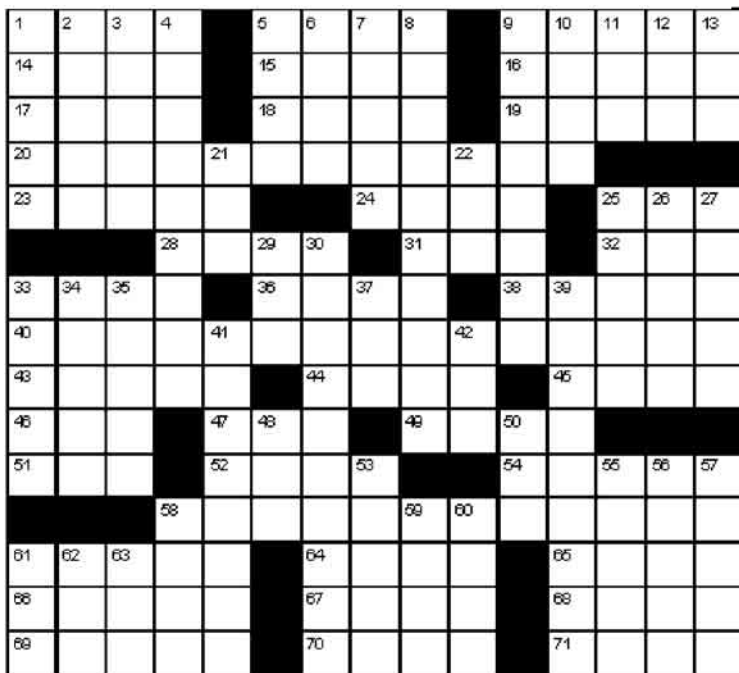
Court Dance | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Over with
5 Word with tag or double
9 Enterprise healer
14 Biographical beginning
15 Nasty brute
16 One way to look
17 Coal car
18 Admonish
19 Scarcely detectable amounts
20 Process for determining age
23 "The Glass Bead Game" author
24 Delhi dress
25 Tape deck button
28 Salver
31 Played first
32 Santa ____, Calif.
33 Voluminous do
36 Eve's follower
38 Faster's opposite?
40 Risking one's neck
43 It's pounded for attention
44 ____ noire
45 Some are tops
46 Spot in the mer
47 Assay specimen
49 Abate
51 "C'____ la vie"

DOWN

- 1 Pumpkin's place
2 Enveloping qualities
3 Is not supporting
4 OK Corral locale
5 Hamlet's cousin
6 "Oh, my!"
7 Hanging tapestry
8 Imaginary string around the finger
9 Central thrust
10 Pipe problem
11 Op ____ (footnote abbr.)
12 Lab eggs
13 Positive message
21 Atop, in poesy
22 Dander
25 Two-to-one, e.g.
26 Pentagon worry
27 South Beach



diet no-nos

29 Latin 101 word

30 "No sweat!"

33 Marble

34 Farm young'uns

35 Sturdy fastener

37 Short way

39 Significant others?

41 Dash cache

42 Teacher's org.

48 Fields role

50 Verbalize

53 Sound from one faking boredom

55 Public decree

56 "Cape Fear" actor

57 Shining as from within

58 Pro or con, e.g.

59 Coarse particles

60 Word with split and rear

61 Impeccable service

62 ER workers

63 Article written by Rousseau

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't be too demanding of those around you, or you may find you are left to your own devices. Remember, you need a little help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Don't let yourself get trapped in bouts of name-calling. Steer clear of anyone displaying unexpected pettiness or jealousy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may not be as demonstrative as you might be, but you'll have one thing going for you: You're

willing to listen, listen and listen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) What begins impulsively will end impulsively before the day is out. You're in a pattern of quick and repeated cycles of emotional involvement.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't count on receiving all that you ask for, but you don't make the mistake of thinking that no one is on your side, either.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your dual nature may be on dramatic display today. Even family and friends may have trouble anticipating your next move.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're not one to be bored by routine, particularly if you're left alone to explore. Still, concentrate on getting the job done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may be getting

dangerously possessive, creating tension in an already taxed relationship. Someone close may be on the verge of leaving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) What seems like fun and games early in the day will become something serious before you know it. Know exactly when to call it quits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a good day to reveal true feelings — if you dare. Gemini and Aquarius natives express a common interest in you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're in for a good deal of excitement if you're willing to pass through a door opened unexpectedly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) An early start is best for you, but don't get carried away. Don't risk exhausting yourself in exchange for more time on your hands.

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